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Japan

Tokyo Rejects 'Quad' Talks on Market Access

OW1201140194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japan will not agree to a proposal by the United States and the European Union to hold talks among the so-called "Quad" countries and region on trade, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday [12 January].

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "Japan cannot agree to such an idea while they neglect to do what they should do and are trying to wrench something from Japan."

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and EU Commissioner in charge of External Economic Affairs Leon Brittan have called for the opening of negotiations with their counterparts in Japan and Canada on market access issues.

The official, however, said, "it is another thing if they are willing to really seriously discuss trade rules."

Officials Report on Progress in Framework Talks

OW1301003894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0014 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Washington, Jan. 12 KYODO—The United States and Japan may hold a ministerial meeting to address the bilateral framework trade talks if no breakthrough is reached at subcabinet-level negotiations, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said Wednesday [13 January].

The two governments have scheduled at least two rounds of framework negotiations at deputy ministerial level prior to the summit meeting between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and President Bill Clinton on February 11.

So far, neither Tokyo nor Washington has raised the possibility of a ministerial meeting.

But Kantor told a news conference Wednesday that "there will be probably discussions at the ministerial level" following the deputies' meetings.

Meanwhile, Japanese officials reported progress on framework talks on financial services held in Washington Wednesday.

A Japanese official who took part in the negotiations said he expects an interim report on financial services to be completed by the time the first deputies' meeting takes place in Washington on January 24.

The official warned, however, that conclusion of an interim report does not mean that the two sides have settled their differences on substantive issues, since the document contains primarily a wish list of market access issues that both sides want to be addressed.

According to the framework acco d concluded last July, the two countries have until July this year to complete negotiations on financial services.

Reaction to Kantor's Remarks on Reviving 301

Takemura To Urge 'Prudence'

OW1301050194 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura commented this morning at a news conference on U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor's remark that the U.S. Government is studying the possibility of reviving the Super 301 provision of the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act.

The provision stipulates retaliation against trading nations that refuse to liberalize their markets or discriminate against U.S. exports.

Insisting that such action would go against the spirit of Japan- U.S. economic consultations, Takemura said he would urge prudence on part of the United States.

[Begin Takemura recording] Our agreement is that we should maximize our efforts at dialogue. I think what they are proposing would go against the spirit of dialogue. I would like to ask that they be prudent as far as remarks on exercising the Super 301 provision are concerned. [end recording]

Takemura's comments indicated the government would ask the United States to be cautious about reviving the Super 301 provisions.

Further on Takemura Response

OW1301051294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0304 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan voiced concern on Thursday [13 January] over a possible move by the United States to revive the "Super 301" trade measure through an executive order.

Saying Tokyo and Washington have agreed to do their utmost to achieve progress in bilateral framework trade talks, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura told a news conference that the resurrection of the U.S. measure would run counter to the accord.

"We want the U.S. to act cautiously," the top government spokesman said.

"Super 301," in effect from 1988 to 1990, required the U.S. Government to conduct an annual review of trade barriers abroad and impose trade sanctions if those barriers were not removed within a year.

Takemura's comment came after U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said Wednesday the administration of President Bill Clinton may renew the punitive measure through an executive order in connection with bilateral trade "framework" negotiations.

"That would be an option," Kantor told a group of Japanese reporters.

Touching on the framework talks, Kantor said Washington will insist on setting quantitative criteria to gauge the openness of Japanese markets.

Japanese and U.S. negotiators have become bogged down on how to define and set "objective criteria" in the negotiations, which are being held under the bilateral trade framework accord reached last July.

Washington wants to use the level of imports in other group of seven major industrialized nations as the "norm" for Japan to follow.

Japanese officials call the U.S. position unacceptable, saying such measures would amount to setting aside a specific market share for foreign goods and services, tantamount to managed trade.

Earlier Thursday, a government source also expressed displeasure about the potential revival of "Super 301."

"Negotiations will be impossible if they are based on retaliatory actions," the source said.

Stressing that Tokyo will continue efforts to further open the nation's markets, the source said Japan and the U.S. should talk with each other on the principle of an equal partnership.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will meet Clinton on February 11 in Washington to assess progress in the framework talks.

Remarks Termed 'Inappropriate'

OW1301092894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0912 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official on Thursday [13 January] rapped U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor for hinting at reviving the "Super 301" trade retaliation clause.

"There should not be unilateral measures under the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade," the official said.

He criticized Kantor for making "inappropriate" comments in the middle of Japan-U.S. trade framework negotiations.

Kantor told Japanese reporters in Washington on Wednesday that revival of the clause is "an option" for the United States.

Tokyo, Washington To Hold Talks on Microchips

OW1301073494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0713 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan and the United States will hold emergency talks next Wednesday in Tokyo about the foreign share of the Japanese semiconductor market, the vice trade minister said Thursday [13 January].

Vice International Trade and Industry Minister Hideaki Kumano told a press conference that the Japanese side will seek the understanding of their U.S. counterparts by explaining the circumstances surrounding a recent fall in the share of foreign microchips in Japan.

Although the ratio has dropped the absolute quantity of foreign microchips sold in Japan has increased, Kumano said.

The foreign share of Japan's microchips market during the July-September period of 1993 fell below 20 percent for the third consecutive quarterly drop.

Dissatisfied with the results, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor asked Japan for an emergency meeting on the matter in January.

The 20 percent is cited in a 1991 bilateral semiconductor trade pact as the share level of foreign-made microchips in Japan expected to be achieved by the end of 1992.

Under the pact, emergency meetings are provided for if the objectives of the arrangement are not being achieved. No such consultations have been held so far.

The share of foreign microchips in Japan, as calculated by the U.S. formula, reached 20.2 percent in the last quarter of 1992, heading off U.S. sanctions, but has fallen since, to 19.6 percent in the first quarter, 19.2 percent in the second quarter, and 18.1 percent in the third quarter of 1993.

Mondale Conveys Inman Wish To Meet Aichi

OW1301102994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Bobby Ray Inman, picked as the next U.S. defense secretary to replace Les Aspin, is seeking to meet his Japanese counterpart Kazuo Aichi as soon as he receives the senate confirmation, U.S. Ambassador Walter Mondale said Thursday [13 January].

Mondale conveyed Inman's wish to Aichi when he visited the Japanese Defense Agency chief, officials said.

Aichi also expressed the hope of meeting with Inman at an early stage, the officials said.

On Aichi's hope for an early visit to the United States, the Defense Agency is now trying to arrange a trip but it could be delayed until March or later because of Japanese Diet affairs and the compilation of the fiscal 1994 budget, official sources said.

Last December, President Bill Clinton named Inman, a former top Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official, to succeed Aspin as defense secretary.

Hata May Accompany Hosokawa to U.S. in Feb

OW1301075794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0746 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata may accompany Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to the United States in February, a top Foreign Ministry official said Thursday [13 January].

Hosokawa is scheduled to hold a summit meeting in Washington with U.S. President Bill Clinton on February 11.

Hata has not yet visited the U.S. capital after becoming foreign minister last August.

Ministry sources said if Hata makes the U.S. trip, he is likely to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to discuss problems involving North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons, the two nation's policies toward Russia in the wake of December's parliamentary elections, and policies toward China.

Hosokawa is scheduled to visit Washington from February 10 to 12 for talks with Clinton to assess the progress of bilateral trade framework talks under an accord reached last July.

Nissan To Shift Sunny Production to U.S.

OW1201142194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1107 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Nissan Motor Co. will shift to the United States all its manufacturing operations for the Sunny model which is sold there, the company's head said Wednesday [12 January].

Upon unveiling the new Sunny model, Nissan President Yoshifumi Tsuji said the switch was prompted by the appreciation of the yen.

Nissan has already started to locally manufacture about 70 percent of Sunny cars sold in the U.S. market.

Just less than 120,000 vehicles of 165,000 Sunny cars sold in the U.S. last year were locally made, with the remainder imported from Japan.

Tsuji said its new manufacturing plant in Tennessee will be in charge of production of all Sunnys from late this year. The cars produced there will be put on the U.S. market starting 1995.

Nissan's Zama plant in Kanagawa Prefecture will continue making Sunnys for the domestic market, but its production will be phased out, as the operation is gradually moved to the Kanda plant in Kyushu as part of the company's restructuring program.

Tokyo, Moscow Postpone Talks on Islands

OW1301093294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0917 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan and Russia will indefinitely postpone planned working-level talks on a bilateral territorial dispute originally set for late January, a top Foreign Ministry official said Thursday [13 January].

The meeting, scheduled in Moscow as the first talks on the territorial row between the two sides since Russian President Boris Yeltsin visited Japan last October, is being postponed at Russia's request, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The official quoted Russian officials as citing as an obstacle mobility of personnel in the wake of Russia's parliamentary elections in December.

Japan claims four Russian-held islands off the northernmost main island of Hokkaido. The islands—Shikotan, Kunashiri, Etorofu and the Habomai islets—were seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Ex-Im Bank Head Urges More Reform in Russia

OW1301130594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The head of the Export-Import Bank of Japan urged Russia on Thursday [13 January] to carry out more economic reforms in order for the country to receive export credits from the semigovernmental bank.

The bank is now looking for appropriate fields to which export credits could be applied for the country, President Mitsuhide Yamaguchi told a press conference.

He added quickly, however, that the step is conditional on smooth implementation of economic adjustment policies in the country.

Yamaguchi said Russia's economic reforms need to advance to a level where it is entitled to receive stand-by credits under an economic stabilization scheme by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In October 1991, Japan pledged to provide to Russia 200 million dollars in export credits by the Export-Import Bank of Japan as part of a 2 billion dollar program to promote trade and economic activity in the country.

Yamaguchi voiced hope that Russia will be fully eligible for the IMF's special facility set up for Russia and other nations struggling to shift to a market economy.

Stand-by credits can be extended only under the new facility, called the Systemic Transformation Facility (STF).

Russia has already received 1.5 billion dollars in the first portion of the STF that the IMF pledged last June.

Talks are now under way over disbursement of the remaining portion of the credit, which does not demand strict criteria as imposed under ordinary loans, such as inflation control and budget deficit cuts.

Paris Club Likely To Defer Russian Debt

OW1301120694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0748 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The Paris Club of official creditors appears likely to agree on deferring 1 billion dollars or so in Russian debt payments falling due in March or April, government sources said Thursday [13 January].

The agreement is expected as early as January 17 when the Paris Club holds a meeting, the sources said. The Paris

Club is an informal grouping of creditor nations which meet regularly in the French capital.

Russia's official creditors so far have agreed to reschedule some 15 billion dollars of the country's foreign debt falling due last year for 10 years, with a five-year grace period for interest payments.

They are also to defer Russian debt payments falling due in 1994 on condition that Russia and the International Monetary Fund agree on economic reforms needed for IMF loans.

But a majority of Paris Club members now believe that a debt rescheduling deal for Russian debt payments falling due by April is needed unconditionally as a temporary measure because Russia faces slow progress in economic reforms due to political unrest, the sources said.

Taiwan President Attending APEC Summit Opposed

OW1301094294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0915 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan is opposed to having Taiwan President Li Teng-hui attend an informal Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit meeting in Indonesia in November, a top Foreign Ministry official said.

The official said Japan thinks there is no need to change the summit format from that of the Seattle meeting last year, and added that other APEC member countries are of the same opinion.

At China's insistence, the U.S. Government did not invite Li to the first summit in APEC's four-year history in Seattle on November 20.

Instead of Li, Taiwan's top government economic planner Vincent Siew attended the 17-member APEC economic forum before the summit meeting.

The original members of APEC, founded in 1989, are Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the United States, and the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan joined the consultative forum in 1991. Papua New Guinea and Chile were also granted admission at the Seattle summit.

Panel Drafts Construction Market Opening Plan

OW1301123994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1145 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Ruling coalition parties came up with a proposal Thursday [13 January] to increase transparency in Japan's construction market and secure greater access for foreign firms, an official said.

The coalition parties asked Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa through the Cabinet Secretariat to use the plan in its program to help improve the nation's public works bidding systems, said Seiji Maehara of the Japan New Party.

A project team from the ruling parties on bidding systems for Japan's public works projects, headed by Maehara, came up with the proposal and won approval from coalition policymakers Thursday.

The ruling parties' proposal calls for an open bidding system for large-scale public works projects and "objectivity, fairness, equality and openness" in bidding for smaller projects that would not be subject to open bidding, Maehara told a news conference.

He said the ruling parties' panel thrashed out its proposal in time for cabinet approval of the government's action program expected next Tuesday before the January 20 deadline of potential sanctions from the United States.

"Given the situation, we had to ask the government to include the ruling parties' views (in the action program)," he said.

The ruling parties' project team did not specify the size of public works projects that are subject to open bidding.

It also failed to show any proposal on a possible halt to preferential treatment for U.S. construction firms in bidding for Japan's major public works projects.

But the panel acknowledged the need to eliminate discrimination against foreign participants in public works bidding in Japan, Maehara said.

Tokyo's UN Budget Share To Rise to 15 Percent

OW1301130394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan will have to shoulder about 15 percent of the United Nations' budget for 1995 to 1997, up from the current 12.45 percent, following a routine rate revision, Foreign Ministry sources said Thursday [13 January].

Japan will either shoulder 15 percent from 1995, or 13.5 percent in 1995 and raise it to 15 percent by 1997, the sources said.

The new rates for the U.N. members' contribution for 1995 through 1997 will be decided at the U.N. General Assembly next fall after a working group on the financial contribution compiles a report by around August, they said.

It has already been decided that a new method of calculating the new rates will be adopted, they said.

The U.N. members' contribution rates to the world body's budget are revised every three years based on each country's economic indicators such as gross domestic product, per capita national income and foreign debt.

The U.N. budget, compiled for two-year periods, stands at 2.58 billion dollars for fiscal 1994 and 1995.

Japan's U.N. budget share of 12.45 percent currently ranks second after the United States, which provides 25 percent.

The U.N. is in serious financial difficulties because many member countries are in arrears with their contributions and due to expanded peacekeeping activities.

Government Fixes Price of Imported Rice

OW1301132194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1223 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The Rice Price Council on Thursday [13 January] approved a Farm Ministry plan to set the government selling prices of imported table-use rice at 60 to 84 percent of the average selling price of standard Japanese rice, ministry officials said.

The approval came when the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry briefed the government advisory council on the plan at an informal council meeting, the officials said.

They said the ministry is likely to make an official decision next week on the prices of imported rice, which is scheduled to go on sale nationwide in Japan next month. The imported rice will be blended with Japanese rice for sale to consumers.

Japan is importing rice on an emergency basis due to a bad crop in 1993.

The prices will be based on two categories of rice—long-grain and short- or medium-grain—and on the country of origin, the officials said.

Among the imports, rice from the United States and top-grade rice from China, both short- or medium-grain, will be sold for 16,898 yen per 60 kilograms, 84 percent of the average selling price of standard Japanese rice.

Long-grain non-glutinous rice from Thailand will be sold for 11,992 yen per 60 kilograms, 60 percent of the Japanese rice price.

Major supermarket chains, meanwhile, have started studying plans for selling imported rice to consumers.

Daiei Inc. said it plans to sell blends of imported and domestic rice and expects to eventually replace 100 percent top-grade domestic rice with blended rice.

Daiei officials said 100 percent imported rice is likely to be sold at prices 30 to 50 percent lower than domestic rice.

Ito-Yokado Co. said it plans to test-market imported rice at limited outlets, beginning in February.

Restaurant chain Skylark Co. declined comment on the possibility of cutting menu prices by using imported rice.

Frozen food manufacturer Nichirei Inc. also declined comment on possible price cuts for its products through the use of imported rice. The company last year raised its prices for frozen rice-based foods.

Coalition Pledges Draft FY94 Budget by 10 Feb

OW1301131994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The government and the ruling coalition plan to compile a budget plan for the next fiscal year by February 10, government sources said Thursday [13 January].

According to their budget-drafting schedule, the ruling coalition will work out guidelines on February 3 for compilation of the budget and tax reforms for fiscal 1994, starting in April.

Based on this, on February 5 the Finance Ministry will announce its budgetary plan, which is likely to be adopted as a government proposal with few changes on February 10, just in time for the summit meeting in Washington between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Government sources said the biggest point for debate will be how to finance a planned reduction in the income tax.

The Social Democratic Party [of Japan], an important force in the coalition, has been opposed to raising the current 3 percent consumption tax rate to offset the income tax cut, an idea pushed by the Finance Ministry.

Coalition Agrees on Inheritance Tax Measure

OW1301130494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1029 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The seven parties in Prime Minister Morihiro hosokawa's coalition government agreed Thursday [13 January] to allow owners of inherited property to pay the inheritance tax on them in property itself, party officials said.

The tax relief measure, agreed upon at a meeting of the parties' policymakers, is intended for those who inherited land between 1989 and 1991 when land prices skyrocketed amid a real estate investment boom and plan to pay the tax in installments, the officials said.

The coalition parties intend to implement the tax relief measure as part of tax reforms for fiscal 1994, they said.

LDP, FTC Held 'Secret Talks' on Antitrust Fine

OW1201134094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members held secret talks with the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) in February and March of 1992 to broker a deal on a new maximum fine for firms violating the Antimonopoly Law by bid-rigging, informed sources said Wednesday [12 January].

Those who attended the meetings were members of the LDP's panel on the Antimonopoly Law, including former Construction Minister Kishiro Nakamura, as well as FTC officials headed by former Commission Chairman Setsuo Umezawa, the sources said.

On several occasions at a Tokyo hotel and the headquarters of the LDP, then the ruling party, both sides discussed the size of the maximum penalty and decided to raise it to 100 million yen from 5 million yen, the sources said.

Nakamura, who was the panel's deputy chairman, is facing allegations that he received 10 million yen in dubious contributions in January 1992 from major construction firm Kajima Corp.

The negotiations were reportedly tough since the LDP had strongly opposed the FTC's proposal in 1991 to raise the penalty to several hundreds of million yen. But when the meetings started, the LDP relaxed its stance, the sources said.

They quoted one participant as suggesting that there must have been an arrangement within the LDP on settling the issue beforehand.

Nakamura reportedly acted as an agent of former political kingpin Shin Kanemaru, who has been indicted on charges of evading income tax on secret donations from the construction industry.

Kanemaru and Nakamura are known for having close connections with the nation's construction industry and have therefore become the center of the current corruption scandal involving the industry.

It has also been reported that Umezawa explained Nakamura's role in a meeting with Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara.

After reaching the agreement with the LDP, the FTC announced the 100 million yen penalty figure on March 12, 1992.

Diet Panel Drafts Bill To Cut Administration

OW1201143594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—A panel of Diet members from several political parties drafted a bill Wednesday [12 January] to establish within parliament an organization that will work to streamline the administration, panel members said.

The group led by Naoto Kan, a House of Representatives member of the United Social Democratic Party (Shaminren), will submit the bill to the next ordinary session of the Diet beginning on January 31, they said. Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa serves as adviser to the group.

Under the panel's plan, the organization would hear complaints from the public about the administration, check such opinions and report the outcome of the study to the House of Representatives speaker or the House of Councillors president.

The commission would also advise the lower house speaker or the upper house president on enacting or abolishing laws for the purpose of cutting administrative organizations.

The planned organization would have the right to demand administrative bodies to submit documents and to open hearings.

The Management and Coordination Agency plans to set up a similar organization in the Prime Minister's Office, but the group led by Kan doubts the administration can make the appropriate cuts on its own, they said.

Committee Confirms Public Hearing on Reform

OW1301052894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0506 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The Steering Committee of the House of Councillors voted Thursday [13 January] to confirm the January 17 date set for a public hearing on the government's political and electoral reform bills.

The vote in the committee was 12 for and 12 against, and the motion was carried with Akira Omori, the committee chairman, exercising his casting vote.

The public hearing, to be held in Tokyo, is a prerequisite to putting the bills to a vote in an upper house plenary session.

The bills are aimed at revamping the electoral system for the House of Representatives and tightening political fund-raising controls.

The upper house's Special Committee on Political Reform voted Monday to set the date for the public hearing for January 17.

The reform bills cleared the more powerful lower house on November 18 but have become bogged down in the upper house in the face of stiff opposition from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP).

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has vowed to pass the package during the current Diet session, which expires January 29.

Several upper house members of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], one of the ruling coalition parties, have expressed opposition to the bills and could vote against them or abstain.

In the upper house, the ruling coalition has 131 seats, the LDP 99, the JCP 11, the Niin Club five, and independents five.

At a session of the special committee Thursday, the JCP submitted a motion demanding the coalition let Hosokawa's former political funds manager Masatoshi Miyama testify before the Diet as a sworn witness.

The JCP wants Miyama to testify about 100 million yen Hosokawa said he received as a loan from the scandal-ridden Sagawa Kyubin trucking group and later paid back.

Hosokawa Denies Plan To Reshuffle Cabinet

OW1301100994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa denied press reports Thursday [13 January] that he is considering reshuffling the cabinet immediately after the expected passage of political reform bills at the end of this month.

Hosokawa told reporters that he is "not at all considering" a cabinet reshuffle.

The premier also said the government plans to retain the post of a state minister in charge of political reform after the expected passage of the political reform bills. Sadao Yamahana, former chairman of the Social Democratic Party, currently holds the post.

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Thursday that Hosokawa discussed the plan to reshuffle the cabinet with Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) co-leader Ichiro Ozawa at the end of last year and is studying the timing and scale of the change.

The YOMIURI said the reshuffle would be on a limited scale, though it was intended to replace Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura and a few other ministers.

Takemura, who advocated concessions to the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on the bills, is likely to be retained in the cabinet with a new post, the YOMIURI said.

Ozawa, former LDP secretary general, takes an uncompromising stance to the LDP.

Shinseito is offering cabinet posts to [Social Democratic Party of Japan] SDP [SDPJ] executives calling for tightening control on party members, sources said. Several SDP[J] House of Councillors members have expressed opposition to the bills and could vote against them or abstain.

The government-proposed package that Hosokawa has vowed to push through the Diet during its current session is pending before the upper house.

LDP Group Criticizes Shinseito, Komeito

OW1201094394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0922 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—A group of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) legislators on Wednesday [12 January] blasted two key forces within the coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa for their alleged "fascist nature."

"We must see through and fight the fascist trend that has been clearly emerging in politics for the past half year since the inauguration of the Hosokawa cabinet," the group said in a statement.

All group members are legislators of the powerful House of Representatives.

The 22-member group of the main opposition asserted that Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) and Komeito, major components in the seven-party coalition, want political reform to be achieved so as to gain absolute power.

A change in the system for House of Representatives elections, a centerpiece of the government-sponsored reform package, "is a weapon definitely necessary for a political bloc forged by Shinseito and Komeito." It described the two parties as having a "fascist nature" in their lust for power.

"We are saying what nobody else has said, though he or she has noticed the signs," lower house member Katsuhiko Shirakawa told a news conference.

Calling Shinseito and Komeito "authoritarian and autocratic" forces, another lower house member, Minoru Noda, said the two parties will continue to threaten the nation's parliamentary democracy.

The coalition and the LDP have been at loggerheads over the course of political reform aimed at ending rampant corruption in Japanese public life.

Hosokawa has staked his political fate on enactment of necessary legislation by the January 29 close of the current Diet session.

Shirakawa and other LDP lower house legislators told reporters that they will ask lower house and House of Councillors legislators of other political parties to join the parliamentary group, temporarily called "The Association of Solidarity for Freedom."

Shinseito's co-leader, Ichiro Ozawa, is one of the most powerful politicians in the coalition and was apparently instrumental in establishing the coalition government last August after dislodging the LDP from a 38-year-old grip on power following the general elections a month earlier.

Ozawa is believed to have still exerted strong influences behind the scenes and have a strong tie with Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa.

Political analysts said Shinseito and Komeito may unite as the next stage of rallying political forces comes around.

LDP Group Accuses Coalition of 'Fascist' Stance

OW1301081894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0744 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—A group of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lawmakers on Thursday [13 January] accused the ruling coalition of having a "fascist" political stance and called for the protection of democracy.

"The governing coalition's management of parliamentary affairs and its political stance are extremely autocratic and authoritarian, and it is undeniable that it is moving in the direction of fascist politics," the group said in a statement.

"This is a crisis of democracy, and it is now an urgent political task to launch an antifascism and prodemocracy movement," it said.

The group led by House of Representatives member Yoshinobu Shimamura issued the appeal after a meeting that brought together 32 LDP legislators, one former LDP lawmaker and 31 proxies of politicians.

It also sought advance enactment of anticorruption measures without changing the electoral system for the lower house.

The lower house election system should be amended along with the systems for House of Councillors and local government polls after ruling and opposition parties reach a consensus, the group said.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has staked his political fate on enactment of a reform package featuring electoral changes and stricter controls on campaign funding before the current extraordinary Diet session ends on January 29.

Ozawa Agrees To Resume News Conferences 17 Jan

OW1201100994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Ruling party Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) co-leader Ichiro Ozawa will resume his press conference Monday [17 January] for the first time in more than two months, his office said Wednesday.

The resumption apparently means that Ozawa has agreed to Shinseito officials' requests that he meet with reporters.

"We hope to respect and understand each other by resuming the press conferences," the office said.

Ozawa had refused to hold press briefings since early November as negotiations between him and the media organizations deadlocked over his ban of journalists of two major dailies—the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN and the SANKEI SHIMBUN—from his press meetings.

Ozawa, a powerful figure of the coalition government led by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, in late October began excluding the two papers' reporters from his news conferences, saying their news coverage on him had been inaccurate.

Ozawa's office said the two papers will be allowed to attend the Monday meeting.

The Monday meeting will be held for the first time since November 8, when Ozawa held a press conference to tell reporters that he had accepted 5 million yen from scandal-plagued Kajima Corp. as a legal political donation.

The Tuesday edition of the South Korean daily TONG-A ILBO carried an interview with Ozawa, in which he was quoted as saying that the Japanese mass media are mean and inhuman hordes that only criticize.

North Korea

KCNA: 'U.S. Imperialists' Stage Aerial Exercises

SK1301050094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 13 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists brought formations of fighter-bombers and pursuit-assault planes to the air above Yongwol, Wonju and the Tokjok Islet, South Korea, from their base in Japan on January 11 to stage an exercise of making surprise air raids on appointed targets with the support of tanker planes and returning nonstop to the base, according to military sources.

Synchronizing with the exercise, an Okinawa-based RC-135 strategic reconnaissance plane flew to the air above the Military Demarcation Line area of South Korea and made a flight from east to west for aerial espionage on the whole areas of the northern half of Korea.

Commentary: ROK-U.S. Exercises 'Aggravating Tension'

SK1301060394 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "Deliberate Maneuvers To Aggravate Tension"]

[Text] The South Korean puppets continue, in the new year, to conduct daily war exercises with the U.S. imperialists against the North, thus straining the situation on the Korean peninsula.

As was reported, on 9 January, the U.S. imperialists conducted electronic jamming by flying electronic intercept planes in the skies above Suwon, Hoengsong, Chunchon, Paju, and Pochon and conducted an aerial electronic war exercise against the North with a huge number of combat planes mobilized from overseas bases and air corps belonging to the U.S. occupation Air Force based in South Korea.

Since the beginning of the new year, South Korean puppets have conducted joint aerial war exercises against the North with the U.S. imperialists, and on ground, have conducted night attack operation exercises aimed at breaking through the Military Demarcation Line [MDL]. On 6 and 7 January, they drew hundreds of armed rascals in an area near the MDL and the DMZ and fired hundreds of shots from large-caliber machine guns and automatic rifles, thus agitating us extremely.

They then mobilized squadrons of the puppet army's combat planes to support ground-attack units and squadrons of armed helicopters flying at very low altitudes to conduct missile-firing convergence exercises aimed at striking targets in the area along the coast of the northern half of the Republic and frantically engaged in war exercises. All this is a deliberate and planned game of playing with fire [puljangnan] aimed at driving the situation to the brink of war by aggravating tensions on the Korean peninsula. It is a very alarming move.

As has already been reported, the puppet defense minister said on 3 January that the Army, Navy, and Air Force should maintain a strong combat posture this year, too. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff also made bellicose remarks that the military should adopt a posture ready to cope with someone's war threat, to assume prompt counteraction, and the like. Meanwhile, in a so-called New Year's press conference, traitor Kim Yong-sam noisily talked about modernization of the puppet army and establishment of a security posture. Judging from the recent series of warmongers' bellicose outbursts and war exercises from South Korea, we can clearly predict that the puppet Kim Yong-sam clique will dash even harder this year, into a war provocation against the North.

A year remains before our people face the 50th anniversary of national division by outside forces. This sorrowful reality urgently demands that our people unite firmly as one by overcoming differences of ideology and systems to launch ourselves onto the road of reunification and patriotism. In response to this urgent demand of the times and the national aspiration, all fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas are vigorously advancing toward unity and reunification, not confrontation and division.

The situation around us is also developing in a favorable way for fatherland reunification as a breakthrough for resolving the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula has been found through DPRK-U.S. contacts.

At this time, the South Korean puppets are aggravating tensions by conducting war exercises against the North in an obsolete way. Again this clearly shows that they pursue South-North confrontation without any interest in peace or reunification. This also intolerably challenges the national aspiration for peace and reunification. The South Korean puppets conduct war exercises against the North like fools rushing in where angels fear to tread. Their maneuvers are nothing more than thoughtless and foolish acts. If they dare to provoke us, we will sternly punish the provokers.

The puppet Kim Yong-sam clique will gain nothing by driving the tensions on the Korean peninsula into a state of acute confrontation. The only thing it can gain is its ruin. The South Korean puppets should look straight at the situation and had better not run wild recklessly.

Kim Yong-sam's Meeting With Former Presidents Viewed

SK1301052094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 13 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Yong- sam, a puppet, a few days ago invited the traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, dictators of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics", to "Chongwadae" [presidential office] and solicited their "active cooperation". And the two military dictators expressed "thanks" for his "magnanimity" and accepted the request.

The fact that the traitor Kim Yong-sam kissed the dictators of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics" at the beginning of the new year bespeaks that he chose to openly collude with his predecessors, say press commentaries here today.

A news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says:

Kim Yong-sam the puppet is a born fascist and traitor. That is why he, while talking about "liquidation of the past" and "reforms", has defended and protected the chief culprits in the Kwangju massacre and is now taking the road of treachery, fascism, confrontation and war by succeeding to the military dictatorial system of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics" without any reform.

It is crystal clear that the traitor Kim Yong-sam who came to power through his political marriage to the dictators of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics" can neither part with them nor enforce reforms in South Korean society.

The puppet Kim Yong-sam is intending to find a way out in openly joining hands with the military dictators of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics" who have been forsaken by the people, but it is a foolish dream.

A commentary of MINJU CHOSON says the traitor Kim who has been driven to a tight corner, isolated from and rejected by the people at home and abroad, is trying to prolong his remaining days at any cost with the help of the successive military fascist dictators. This is the last-ditch effort of the doomed, notes the commentary.

Group Says Kim Yong-sam's Policy 'Killing' Farmers

SK1301103294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 13 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the General Federation of National Peasants Associations of South Korea (Chonnong) at a recent press conference denounced traitor Kim Yong- sam's policy of killing farmers, according to a report of a South Korean newspaper.

He said Kim Yong-sam's promise in his election "commitments" to adopt a policy for the farmers was a lie to fool them.

Noting that Kim Yong-sam, disclosing his true color, has taken today the road of totally sacrificing agriculture and farmers with the measure of rice market opening, he declared that Chonnong would resolutely turn out in the struggle to defend "our rice, our agriculture".

Commentary Denounces South's Agricultural Policy

SK1201123394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 12 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets on January 8 worked out what they call "timetable for establishing an agricultural policy" regarding rice market opening and are making quite a noise as if the "committee for the development of rural

and fishing villages" which will be formed by the end of this month would "increase the competitive power of agriculture and fisheries" and "improve living conditions in the rural and fishing villages."

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says:

What they are doing is a disgusting act of a political charlatan who causes illness and then administers medicine.

Since the puppets declared rice market opening, they must take measures to block the unrestricted flooding of American agricultural products such as building a higher customs barrier, if they want to prevent losses from it. But a "meeting of ministers concerned" of the puppet administration did not discuss such active measures but put on the order of the day "support" to agriculture through the collection of a new "special tax" and establishment of an "advisory body". What effect would such "measures" of the puppets have? In fact, this is an act to cut the lifeline of the 6 million peasants by market opening and kill all the people by forcing a "special tax" on them under the pretext of "support" to them.

It is impossible that the traitor Kim Yong-sam, a top- class flunkeyist who did not hesitate to open the rice market of South Korea to win the favour of his U.S. master, takes a measure to defend the South Korean peasants and agriculture in disregard of the interests of his master.

The Kim Yong-sam group's talk about "measures" and the like is aimed at creating the impression that it is concerned over the peasants suffering losses and thus lulling their ever-growing grievances and bridging over the worsening crisis of its rule.

People in South Said To Support 10-Point Program

SK1201123794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 12 (KCNA)—The South Korean people and overseas Koreans are voicing support to "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

A dissident pack in Seoul said he believed that only when the 70 million Koreans were closely united as one under the banner of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation, could great national harmony and the historic cause of national reunification, the desire of the Korean nation, be achieved despite the grim situation caused by continued acute confrontation between the North and the South.

A student of Korea University surnamed Yi said: "The supreme task facing our nation is to reject foreign forces and reunify the country through a great unity of the whole nation. The programme of the great unity of the whole nation put forward by President Kim Il- song clearly indicates the way of representing and defending the common will and interests of the nation as well as the interests of every member of the nation, transcending the differences in ideology and ideal, religious belief and social system."

A certain Ri, a journalist of SEOUL SINMUN, said: "Intolerable is the attitude of the South Korean authorities who oppose fellow countrymen and refuse reunification because of their 'ideology- first' cold war mode of thinking. The 10-point programme must be welcomed and supported as a great charter opening the way for great national unity and indicating the road to reunification."

The Canadian headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification and the Consultative Conference for the Promotion of the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland issued a joint statement, praising the 10-point programme. They said the programme closely combined democracy with the reunification issue, thus confirming that reunification and democracy are inseparable from each other and the unified country must be a democratic state.

SKNDF Official Supports Reunification by Confederacy

SK1201054294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 12 (KCNA)—Kim Kwang-chon, vice- chairman of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon), issued a statement January 6, fully supporting the policy of reunifying the country by the confederacy formula on the principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity reiterated by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address, Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

"No force on earth can break the will of our fellow countrymen to reunify the country in the 1990s no matter how hard the separatist forces at home and abroad may work and how the situation surrounding us may change, so long as the Koreans in the South, North and overseas are guided by the great leader President Kim Il-song whom they all worship and follow and the chuche-based principles and line of national reunification and the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation light the road ahead of the nation," said the vice-chairman.

"Hanminjon", he declared, "will join the patriotic people of all walks of life in speeding up the onward movement for the reunification of the country that will unite the 70 million Koreans in one body, under the banner of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation uo forward by President Kim Il-song and contribute to making this year a year of national harmony and unity."

SKNDF Publishes Communique After Belgian Visit, Talks

SK1201051794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 12 (KCNA)—The Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation published a communique on the external activities of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon).

According to the communique, a delegation of Hanminjon led by vice-chairman of its Central Committee Hong Chi-yong visited Belgium in late November last year and held two rounds of talks with a delegation of the Belgian Labour Party led by chairman of its Central Committee Ludo Martens.

At the talks, Hanminjon expressed support and solidarity for the Belgian party's struggle for the interests of the working class and other working masses, social progress and world peace and noted with appreciation that the Belgian party was striving to implement the Pyongyang declaration after signing it.

The Belgian Labour Party recognised Hanminjon guided by the chuche idea as the organisation representing the desire and will of the South Korean people and the patriotic vanguard of the movement for a change in South Korea and highly estimated the South Korean people's struggle for independence, democracy and reunification. It also urged the South Korean authorities to stop their acts of dependence, fascism, division and war.

The Belgian Labour Party recognised "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song as the best way of removing the danger of catastrophic war and tragic division and achieving peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula, and expressed support and solidarity for the struggle of Hanminjon and the South Korean people to realise the 10-point programme.

Hanminjon and the Belgian Labour Party published a joint statement expressing their will to support and closely cooperate with each other on the principles of independence, mutual respect and non-interference in other's internal affairs and further develop inter-party relations through expanded mutual contacts.

The Hanminjon delegation also visited Switzerland where it held talks with a delegation of ohe Workers' Party of Switzerland led by President Josef Zisyadis and with former mayor of Geneva Roger Dafflon who is Politburo member of the Workers' Party of Switzerland, president Edith Ballantyne and the general secretary of the International League of Women for Peace and Freedom, and others.

'Famous Works' of Kim Il-song Published

SK1201052894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 12 (KCNA)—*On the Advantages of Socialism in Our Country*, a collection of works of the great leader President Kim Il-song, was published by the Workers' Party of Korea publishing house.

Carried in the book in full text or summary are 18 famous works of President Kim Il-song including his highly important reports and speeches on bringing the advantages of man-centred socialism of Korea into full play, which were published in the period from April 1955 to April 1992.

The book reflects profound ideas on the characteristics and essential advantages of socialism in Korea, and the source of the might of the socialist system and its invincibility.

Comprehensively consummated in the book are concrete tasks and ways for bringing the advantages of socialism in Korea into full play and outstanding ideas and theories, line and policies giving answers to the theoretical and practical questions.

Pyongyang Radio Airs 'Unattributed Talks'

On Party's Economic Strategy

SK1301032894 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0200 GMT 12 Jan 94

["Unattributed talk": "Our Party's Economic Strategy Is Revolutionary Line for Effecting New Upsurge in Socialist Construction"]

[Text] In his New Year address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song proudly summed up achievements in last year's struggle and put forward militant tasks that our party and people should adhere to in the new year. Thus, he called on them to thoroughly implement our party's economic strategy.

We should thoroughly carry to accomplishment the agriculture- first, light industry-first, and trade-first policy in socialist economic construction during the upcoming three years, which were designated as an adjustment period at the 21st plenary session of the Sixth Party Central Committee.

At the same time, we should give precedence to the coal industry, electric power industry, and railway transport—the priority sector in the national economy—and should continuously develop the metal industry.

Our party's economic strategy is a just policy put forward based on a deep analysis of changed circumstances and practical demand of socialist construction in our country, and is a revolutionary line for effecting a new upsurge in socialist construction.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: During the adjustment period of socialist economic construction, we should thoroughly implement our party's revolutionary economic strategy. Thus, we will firmly consolidate the foundation of the nation's self-supporting economy and will more satisfactorily ensure the people's living according to the demand of socialism. We will hold a new position of attack to attain the higher goal of socialism.

Our party's economic strategy will, above all, enable us to consolidate rock-firm the foundation of the nation's self-supporting economy.

We registered a great advance in the development of the national economy during the Third Seven-Year Plan period. We further consolidated our nation's economy to be a socialist self-supporting national economy in which all domains, including industry and rural economy, were

armed with modern equipment and which have sufficient segmental structure [pumun kujo].

The party's revolutionary economic strategy has elucidated ways for strengthening self-reliance and the might of our economy in every way while consolidating our achievements.

During the adjustment period of socialist economic construction, we will further perfect segmental structure so that the self- reliance of the nation's economy will be strengthened.

In particular, we will continuously direct efforts to the coal industry, electricity, and railway transport—the priority fields in the national economy—and will more satisfactorily resolve the problems of fuel, energy, and transport. By implementing the revolutionary economic strategy, we will be able to epochally develop our economy by depending on the unbounded potential of our self-supporting economy and on abundant natural resources. We will more vigorously accelerate economic construction without wavering in the face of an economic blockade by the imperialists and the worldwide economic crisis.

Another economic strategy of our party is to more smoothly guarantee the people's living standard in accordance with the socialist demand. Endlessly enhancing the people's living standard is the supreme principle of our party's activities. During the recent years, our party took great interest in enhancing the people's living standard even under the difficult condition of carrying out the acute political and military confrontation with the imperialists.

Our party's revolutionary economic strategy is anticipating that the state investment will be increased in the agricultural, light industrial, and foreign trade sectors, which are directly related to the people's living, and that development in these sectors will be vigorously accelerated. Therefore, if this strategic policy is embodied, our people's century-old desire of everyone eating rice and meat soup, wearing silk clothes, and living in tile-roofed houses will be brilliantly realized, and our people's material and cultural life will be all the more abundant in accordance with the intrinsic demand of socialism.

As such, our party's revolutionary economic strategy makes it possible to more vigorously accelerate socialist construction by consolidating, like bedrock, the country's self-supporting economic basis and more smoothly guaranteeing the people's living standard in accordance with the socialist demand.

The superiority of socialism of our own style will be more vigorously displayed when thoroughly implementing our party's revolutionary economic strategy, and we will also occupy a new offensive camp to possess a higher ground of socialism.

Today we are faced with the task of highly upholding the military task presented by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address and of thoroughly implementing our party's revolutionary economic strategy.

This year is a significant year marking the passing of 30 years since the socialist rural theses was announced. We must first of all vigorously carry out the struggle to complete the historical task of the agricultural theses so that a new turning point can be achieved in the development of the rural economy. To achieve this, irrigation and electrification work must be consolidated in the farms, mechanization and chemicalization must be realized at a high level, and the chuche farming method must be thoroughly implemented so that all sectors of agricultural production, including food grain crop can be further developed.

Next, the light industry revolution must be vigorously accelerated so that a great innovation can be achieved in the production of mass consumption goods. To achieve this, the light industry plants must be put in good order, reinforced, modernized, and active measures must be established to strengthen the production of raw materials of the light industry, including synthetic fiber and synthetic resins so that all the light industry plants will operate at full capacity and normalize production at a high level. Along with this, various mass consumption goods must be produced at a large scale in all sectors and units, the variety of consumer goods must be increased, and their quality must be decisively enhanced.

Also, foreign trade must be developed to thoroughly implement our party's revolutionary economic strategy. To develop foreign trade in accordance with the changed environment, foreign markets must be actively sought and thoroughly maintain good credit.

The production bases of export products must be firmly consolidated in various sectors of the people's economy, the production of export products must be increased, and their quality must be enhanced. Along with this, the source of exports must be actively investigated and mobilized in all sectors and regions so exports can be increased and processing trade can be developed.

Efforts must be put into the coal industry, electric industry, and the metal industry to develop agriculture and the light industry and vigorously accelerate the country's overall economic construction. Also, rail transportation must be carried out more smoothly.

All the functionaries, party members, and workers must highly uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address and thoroughly implement our party's revolutionary economic strategy so that socialist construction can be more vigorously accelerated.

On Agricultural Policy

SK1301095194 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0200 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Unattributed talk: "Complete Implementation of the Agriculture-Is-First Policy Is an Important Demand in Realizing Our Party's Revolutionary Economic Strategy"]

[Text] In his New Year's address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song explained the need to completely implement

our party's revolutionary economic strategy and stressed that we should make a new turning point in developing our rural economy this year by adhering to the agriculture-is-first policy.

Our party's revolutionary economic strategy is a revolutionary policy of economic construction that reflects our party's intent to enhance the superiority of socialism of our own style by effecting a new upsurge in economic construction and to consolidate the national economic power by further strengthening our economic independence and self-reliance.

The implementation of the agriculture-is-first policy is the most important demand in realizing our party's economic strategy.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: This year is meaningful because it is when the 30th anniversary of the presentation of the socialist rural theses is marked. We should make a new turning point in developing our rural economy by vigorously carrying out the struggle to accomplish the historic tasks of the rural theses.

The year 1994 is a meaningful one in which the 30th anniversary of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's presentation of the socialist rural theses is marked.

Our people have stoutly carried out the struggle to implement the socialist rural theses under the wise leadership of the party and the leader. By vigorously advancing along the road presented in the rural theses, our people have been able to correctly solve the socialist rural problems without a slightest deviation and an improvement close to a complete realization [wanjonhan silhyone kajang kakkaun kaesone chopkun] of the rural theses is drawing near today.

Thus, the rural areas of our country have turned into socialist, cultural rural areas with good living and working conditions, and increasing agricultural production has made it possible to solve the people's food problems more smoothly.

With this great result we have already achieved, we should vigorously carry out the struggle to accomplish the historic tasks of the rural theses this year, when the 30th anniversary of its presentation is marked, and completely implement our party's revolutionary economic strategy.

Complete implementation of the agriculture-is-first policy is considered to be an important demand in realizing our party's revolutionary economic strategy because it enables us to greatly enhance the superiority of socialism of our own style by improving our people's living conditions.

Food problems are the most imminent in the people's material life, and how to solve the problems is one of the important questions that influence the result of socialist, communist construction.

With our party's people-oriented policy to smoothly solve the people's food problems, our country supplies sufficient food to our people, who enjoy happy lives without food problems [mogul kokchongul morugo].

The people, however, demand more and more abundant living as their living conditions improve. When we do farming well by implementing the party's agriculture-is-first policy, we can meet the people's ever-increasing demand and can ultimately guarantee the people's happy lives in accordance with the socialist demand.

In particular, the thorough implementation of the agriculture-is-first policy is an important demand in fully displaying the superiority of socialism of our own style. The true superiority of socialism can be displayed in various fields of social life, but it can be shown practically in the people's happy, abundant, and material lives.

Without properly solving the people's food problems, we can neither talk about the true superiority of the socialist system nor firmly keep it against the enemies's various offensives and denouncements. To highly display the superiority of the socialist system of our own style, we must therefore achieve a century-old desire of our people who want to eat rice and meat soup, wear silk clothes, and live in tile-roofed homes.

When we thoroughly implement the agriculture-is-first policy, we can have the people eat plenty of rice and meat soup as well as lead them to constantly raise their standard of living. As a result, we can highly display the superiority of the socialist system.

The thorough implementation of the agriculture-is-first policy is regarded as an important demand in carrying out our party's revolutionary economic strategy. This is because we can strongly solidify the country's economic might by strengthening the chuche character and self-reliance of the economy.

As are cases in all other sectors, we cannot achieve the self-reliant economy when we depend on other countries regarding food problems.

Food problems are very important and essential to the people's material lives. In the people's material lives, starvation is the most difficult to put up with. Therefore, solving the food problems of the people is very important in strengthening the self-reliant economy.

Also, agriculture provides various raw materials to the light industry to strengthen its self-reliance and to satisfy the demands of workers for various industrial products. When people have many things to eat, including rice and meat, their consciousness can become much better and everything will be fine. As a result, they can vigorously accelerate the socialist economic construction.

To thoroughly implement our party's agriculture-is-first policy, we must successfully promote electricity and irrigation in rural communities and adequately introduce machines and chemicals. Also, we must further develop all sectors of agriculture, including grain production, by thoroughly implementing the chuche farming method.

Our working class must produce more modern agricultural machines, including tractors and automobiles, and various farming chemicals, such as chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals, and supply them to rural communities.

Farmers of cooperative farms and agricultural working people throughout the country must assiduously carry out all agricultural works in a position of being befitting to masters responsible for the nation's rice granaries. As a result, they must surely reach this year's grain production goal put forward by the party.

'Great Upswing' in Production Throughout Nation Seen

SK1201112694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 12 (KCNA)—A great upswing has been noticed in production in different domains of the national economy of Korea in the new year.

The Musan mining complex, a major iron headings producer of the nation, set itself the goal of producing 1.5 million more tons of iron headings this year than last year and has overfulfilled daily quotas since the beginning of the new year.

The Songjin steel complex topped the first-day's assignments of the new year 3.4 percent in steel and 5.1 percent in rolled steel. It has since kept a high and steady rate of production.

Coal mines in North Hamgyong Province has lifted the daily amount of tunneling and coal output more than 20 percent by introducing a rational coal cutting method. The Sunchon and Anju district coal mining complexes also have overfulfilled their daily assignments on all indices since the beginning of the year.

The east Pyongyang thermal power station generates 80 percent more electricity and produces 2.4 times more hot water for central heating on a daily average this year than at the end of last year.

At the Kaesong textile mill, the daily output of fabrics is 40 percent up and that of yarn 30 percent up on the daily average of last year.

South Korea

Report on North's 'Nodong No. 1' Missile

SK1201235294 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 13 Jan 94 p 2

[By Yi Chae-mu from Tokyo]

[Text] An ASAHI SHIMBUN article dispatched from London on 12 January reported that the British military journal JANE'S DEFENSE will carry in its 15 January issue an article reporting that the margin of error [ocha] of North Korea's ballistic missile "Nodong No. 1," which was test-fired in the East Sea at the end of May 1993, is 700 meters and that the missiles will be deployed for actual combat around 1996.

North To Merge Region in Partial Economic Opening

SK1301090994 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 13 Jan 94 p 7

[YONHAP report from Tokyo]

[Text] The Japanese YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported on 13 January that North Korea is planning to merge North Hamgyong Province's Najin city and Sonbong County, which are close to the border with the PRC and Russia, and upgrade the region to a city directly controlled by the central government as part of its plan to begin full-scale work for the partial opening of its economy, including the construction of ports.

Quoting a related Seoul source, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN pointed out that the move to merge Najin and Sonbong is thought to symbolize North Korea's strategy to ease the economic difficulties it faces by partially opening its economy.

The Najin and Sonbong region is the core region of the Tumen River Development Plan launched by the UN Development Program. In December 1991, North Korea named the region a "free economic and trade zone," North Korea's equivalent to a special economic zone.

Report Analyzes North's Negotiating Style

SK1201000994 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 11 Jan 94 p 11

[Article by reporter Pak Ui-chun on the research report, "Analysis of Negotiation Style and Activity in the Era Moving Away from the Cold War," by the Foreign Ministry-affiliated Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security; first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Since North Korea withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) in March last year, North Korea has held talks and behind-the-scenes negotiations with the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over the nuclear issue, thus playing a steady tug-of-war with them.

Through several rounds of North-South dialogue, including the North-South high-level talks, North Korea's negotiation style toward the South was revealed. However, North Korea's negotiation style over the nuclear issue, which is compared to a "long-distance race," has not been nearly revealed.

In this connection, in a recent research report, "The Analysis of the Negotiation Style and Activity in the Era Moving Away From the Cold War," the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security analyzed that "North Korea's external negotiation capacity on the nuclear issue is compared both to 'the style of Zhuge Kongming' and to 'an acrobat dancing on the rope for the first time.'" According to the analysis, North Korea's diplomatic style concerning the nuclear issue is as follows:

Regarding the international trends as a "struggle between socialist and imperialist power," North Korea has recognized external negotiations as a means for realizing socialist ideology and smashing the imperialist forces.

Regarding its purpose as an absolute line, North Korea does not hesitate to employ any means and method to attain its purpose of external negotiations.

North Korea's basic consciousness about external negotiations is mainly affected by a way of thinking which seeks a socialist equality, the characteristics of the closed Kim Il-song system based on the chuche idea, independence, and the patriarchal Confucian culture obedient to the supreme authority. As a result, North Korea's diplomatic negotiation style has an aspect different from the Western style of diplomatic negotiations.

In particular, because North Korea has the historical experiences of being plagued by neighboring powerful countries for a long time, it distrusts external forces. On the other hand, it has the consciousness to take advantage of foreign forces.

As to the nuclear issue, which has a complex and technical aspect compared with other general negotiations which were handled during the North-South high-level talks, the characteristics of North Korea's diplomatic negotiation style and activity are as follows:

The Consciousness as a Means for Resisting Foreign Forces

North Korea adheres to attaining the target of its negotiations. North Korea has steadily demanded that U.S. nuclear weapons be withdrawn from South Korea, that U.S. nuclear threat against North Korea be removed, that the Team Spirit exercise be discontinued, that the U.S. nuclear umbrella for South Korea be removed, and that U.S.-North Korean direct negotiations be held.

North Korea has repeatedly put forward such conditions. Prior to adopting the denuclearization declaration, through the government's official statements, mass communications, and various conferences, North Korea has repeatedly declared that without the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons and the removal of nuclear threat against North Korea, it could not conclude the nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA. North Korea has created the atmosphere that if the preconditions are not met, it cannot respond to nuclear negotiations and nuclear inspections.

In the long run, North Korea responded to North-South nuclear negotiations correctly after former U.S. President Bush took steps to remove tactical nuclear weapons and former ROK President No Tae-u announced the nonexistence of nuclear weapons in South Korea.

North Korea does not seem to prepare in advance to specifically implement details agreed upon by the North and South. In early December 1991, North Korea agreed to start nuclear negotiations during the North-South high-level talks and, just within 20 days after this agreement, it agreed on the principles put forward by the South. These principles included "denuclearization on the Korean peninsula" and "the start of the inspections in June after formulating regulations in May." In the stage of nearly carrying out this agreement, North Korea refused to discuss the regulations of the nuclear inspections, but instead maintained that the root of the nuclear issue is due to South Korea's introduction of U.S. nuclear weapons. Under this pretext, it has deadlocked a meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee for a long time. This is a good example showing that North Korea does not prepare in advance to implement agreements between the North and South.

North Korea makes efforts to obtain its target for negotiations by presenting additional proposals to South Korea. When we accepted all conditions made by North Korea in December 1991 regarding the IAEA's request for inspection, North Korea put forward the simultaneous inspection of North and South Korea as a new condition for accepting IAEA inspections. When we accepted the simultaneous inspection of the North and South, North Korea called again for the "adoption of an agreement for the implementation of inspection" featuring the logic of converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone after the North and South forge a denuclearization declaration. Also, it has delayed discussing the inspection regulations.

North Korea regards propaganda as important in negotiations. Before entering negotiations, North Korea has created international opinion by conducting a political propaganda that the fundamental root is caused by U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea and it is being threatened by U.S. nuclear weapons, and by holding the "international conferences for peace and denuclearization on the Korean peninsula."

A Threat With an Extreme Diplomacy

North Korea invites famous foreign figures who can speak for its position in the process of negotiations. By using them, it tries to dispel the suspicion of its nuclear development and obtains information from them regarding the other party. Also, it uses them as a way to grasp the limit that the other party can compromise and, at the same time, to strengthen its demands.

High-ranking North Korean military officials show, however, that they are still reluctant to meet foreign figures. As a result, officials of the State Administration and the party can mainly deal with them. Foreign figures who are believed to be highly useful for propaganda works are be selected as to meet with Kim Il-song.

In addition, in the course of nuclear negotiations with the United States, North Korea has shown its strategies, such as "a threat of extreme diplomacy, the change of agenda items in negotiations by presenting either new conditions or proposals, and the presentation of uncompromising demands."

Through an extreme step of the so-called declaration to withdraw from the NPT, North Korea has escaped from the pressure to accept special inspection [tukpyol sachal] from the IAEA for the time being and led the United States

to regard the issue of making North Korea remain in the NPT as a more important agenda than the IAEA inspection issue in the negotiations. As a result, North Korea has come to hold its long-wished-for direct negotiations with the United States.

In North Korean-U.S. negotiations, particularly, North Korea has strongly called for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Korea and for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States, while the United States has demanded that North Korea remain in the NPT. It is the current situation that the United States, by presenting irresistible demands, checks North Korea's will concerning nuclear inspections.

* North Korea's Political Power Structure Analyzed

Seoul NAEWOE TONGSIN in Korean No 869, 14 Oct 93 pp C1-C6

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] **Order of Power As Means of Systemic Perpetuation**

Naturally, the changes in order of political power in North Korea do not make up the forecast chart of probability with absolute certainty. There are instances in which someone once dropped from the order yet was not completely eliminated from the system. Because some of those once dropped had been reinstated after a certain period, although there had been others who were totally eliminated once and for all.

An example of this is the case in which Im Chun-chu and others had been purged at the (Pyorori Meeting) in December 1950, in the midst of the Korean War; the party Central Committee accused him, by name, of being a traitor charging that he 'retreated abandoning the party leadership, the party members and the people all together.' However, Im Chun-chu was saved and reinstated as he promoted idolization of Kim Il-song as the 'The Sunshine of Human Race,' and 'The Matchless Great Man.'

Not only that, he was the main architect of Kim Il-song dynasty as the foremost political ideologue and theorist with regard to the system of political succession and secured himself a position as a sort of chief of staff for Kim Chong-il faction.

Another example is O Chin-u, firmly in the third position of the political order following Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

He worked for Kim Il-song since the partisan days and was quite a bit junior to Kim Il and Choe Hyon as a party cadre and was merely a reginmental commander during the Korean War, but since then he solidified his political power base in the military, having sided with the group in power at a given point in time during every change of the North Korean political power structure with the reputation as an outstanding strategist and purger of adversaries. And he keeps his position today by the same method, once again as the chieftain for sustenance/security of the Kim Chong-il order. [passage omitted]

There has been little change even after the 6th Party Congress (October 1980) which was the turning point for Kim Chong-il's ascension as the official successor and the only change that came out of the Congress in the characteristics and the order of political structure was the shift in its direction toward solidification of the Kim Chong-il order.

Mass Promotion of Kim Chong-il Faction

This was clearly observed in the substantial changes in the list of candidates for delegate to the Congress where anti-Kim Chong-il personnel were demoted or dropped all together and the noticeable promotion of Kim Chong-il supporters took place.

Colonel General Kim Chol-man, in charge of special military operations on South Korea, was dropped as a Political Bureau candidate member and Kye Ung-tae dropped to candidate- from full member which in turn dropped his ranking dramatically to 27th from 16th. Vice Premier Kang Hui-won, whose ranking rapidly rose to 32nd from 75th, was newly added to the Political Burau as a candidate member, increasing the number of candidate members to 16.

Some other examples: Pak Su-tong, the secretary in charge of labor organizations and the director of the party organizational guidance department, and Hong Si-hak, the secretary in charge of economy, were discharged from their positions, while Hyon Mu-kwang, a Political Bureau candidate member, rose to 20th from 31st. Hyon Mu-kwang, a deputy premier and the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, rose to 37th from 38th. Ho Chong-suk, the chief of the Secretriat Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, rose to 36th from 54th while being newly appointed as a party secretary. This increased the number of party secretaries to 11.

The WPK eighth session of the 5th plenum held February 11 to 13, 1974 secretly selected Kim Chong-il as a member of the WPK Political Committee and, during the period (1974-78), some figures such as Kim Tong-kyu (deputy director), Yu Chang-sik (party Political Committee candidate member and secretary), Kim Chung-nim (party secretary), Yi Yong-mu (Chief of the General Military Political Bureau), Kim Chol-man (First Deputy Chief of the General Staff), Kim Ik-hyon (Minister of the People's Armed Forces), Pak Su-tong (Director of party Organizational Department), and Han Ik-su (Political Committee member and secretary) had either disappeared or been ignored for a time.

Although some of them had been back in the party high ranking positions, others such as Kim Tong-kyu, Yu Chang-sik, and Chang Chong-hang (Deputy Minister of People's Armed Forces) had completely disappeared from the stage of political power.

These occurrences were the series of events the party political establishment carried out to sustain Kim Chong-il succession order and indicate that the nucleus of the party political power now consists of the partisan veterans,

major general level personnel of the partisan origin, and the second generation of partisans.

Kim Chong-il Leads Political Power Pack

During the period, the core of North Korea's power structure consisted of partisan veterans such as Kim Il (Premier, deceased), Choe Yong-kon (Deputy President, deceased) O Paek-yong (Commander of Red Worker-Peasant Militia, deceased), Kim Tong-kyu (Political Committee member, fate unknown), So Chol (party Inspection Committee Chairman, deceased), Im Chun-chu (Political Committee member, deceased) and O Chin-u (People's Army Chief of the General Staff, Political Bureau Standing Committee member and Minister of People's Armed Forces), and the major general level personnel of partisan origin such as Chon Mun-sop (commander of Security Guards and National Inspection Committee Chairman), Paek Hang-nim (Deputy Minister of Public Security, Minister of Public Security and a vice marshal), Yi Tu-ik (commanding general of First Army, party Military Committee member and a vice marshal), Chu To-il (commander of Army Group, commander of Pyongyang Defense Forces and a vice marshal), and Cho Myong-nok (Commander of Air Force and a general) and others such as So Yun-sok, Kim kuk-tae, Yi Chang-son, Choe Tae-pok, Chon Kum-son, Chon Pyong-ho, Choe Yong-nim and Han Song-nyong.

The order of North Korea's political structure is revealed primarily in the official reports listing the names, in the order of importance, seated at the speakers' platform during an entire party congress or major national celebrations such as anniversaries of the regime and the party and also the names of attendants such as anniveraries of the regime and the party and also the names of attendants to the funeral of a high ranking cadre.

As of last year's 44th anniversary of the North Korean regime, the party Political Bureau had 13 full members, reduced from 14 due to the death of So Chol and 8 candidate members and, thus, a total of 24 members, who make up the nucleus of political power.

Among them, three Political Bureau Standing Committee members, Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il and O Chin-u, make up the core within the nucleus of political power.

There has been no change in the positions of those three which were fixed at the 6th Party Congress in 1980.

Excepting those three and, thus, the fourth position on down, there have been some up's and down's; the current order being Deputy President Yi Chong-ok 4th, Deputy President Pak Song-chol 5th, Yon Hyong-muk (Premier of the Administration Council) 6th, Kim Yong-nam (Minister of Foreign Affairs) 7th, Choe Kwang (armed forces Chief of the General Staff) 8th, Kye Ung-tae (party secretary) 9th, Chon Pyong-ho (party secretary) 10th, Han Song-yong (party secretary) 11th, So Yun-sok 12th and Kang Song-san 13th positions.

Among them, Yon Hyong-muk once rose to the 4th position during the 43rd anniversary ceremony in September of 1991 but fell back to his original 6th position in 1992. Except for Yon Hyong-muk's moves, there has been no change in the order through the 7th position held by Kim Yong-nam.

Choe Kwang, purged in 1969 and resurrected in 1977 and became the Armed Forces Chief of the General Staff in 1988, together with some others such as Kye Ung-tae, Han Song-yong and Chon Pyong-ho has experienced changes now and then, though not extensive, in his ranking within the order.

No Changes in Political Power Structure Expected Unitl 7th Party Congress

So Yun-sok and Kang Song-san alternately held the last position among the Political Bureau full members but, then, So Yun-sok rose one notch up to the 12th position. Yet, there has been no change in the May 1990 roster except the omissions of Ho Tam who died in May of 1991 and So Chol who died in September [of the same year].

In view of the fact, particularly, that Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho and Han Song-yong, all of whom are considered the core personnel of Kim Chong-il order are dual-hatted as party secretaries in addition to being Political Bureau members, it seems the political power structure is being firmed up for the Kim Chong-il succession order.

This observation is further supported by the fact that, as the Political Bureau Standing Committee decides on the ranking and the changes of political power structure order, Kim Chong-il, the Secretary in Charge of Organization, rather than Kim Il-song is currently taking the leading role, and that there has been no purge and have only been minor changes which were due not to any compelling reasons but to accommodate various factions such as partisans, party officials and government bureaucrats, which was strongly indicated as characteristic of the changes, and that there has been little change in the Political Bureau candidate membership from the political power structure of May 1990, except the omissions of Hyon Mu-Kwang who died in February of this year and Cho Se-ung who disappeared from the roster having been discharged from the position of Responsible Secretary of the party for North Pyongan Province.

Of course, the 20th session of the 6th plenum of the party Central Committee held in December 1992 saw the discharge of Yon Hyong-muk from the position of Premier of the Administration Council and the promotion of Kang Song-san, who was the responsible Secretary of the party and the Chairman of People's Committee for North Hamgyong Province, as his successor, having elected Kim Tal-hyon (Deputy Premier and Chairman of External Economic Affairs Committee), and Kim Yong-sun, a party secretary, to Political Bureau candidate members, and having selected Kim Kuk-tae (Superintendent of Kim Il-song Advanced Academy of the party) and Kim Ki-nam (Director of Propaganda and Agitation Department) as party secretaries.

Also nine candidate members such as Choe Pong-man (party Central Committee candidate member) and Chang Song-taek (Director of Youth Work Department) have

been elevated to Central Committee membership and nine such as Pak Myong-chol (Chairman of National Athletic Committee) have been elected to candidate membership.

Kang Song-san, who grew up within the party system since the late 60s and is a Russian expert and an economics specialist and for North-South relations, is considered more conservative than Yon Hyong-muk. His promotion indicates that Kim Chong-il is concerned about economic reforms and North-South relations.

This year's speakers' platform for the (Central Report Congress) for the 45th anniversary of the North Korean regime consisted of, in addition to Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il and O Chin-u, Kang Song-san (Premier of the Administration Council) as the 4th ranking, and, in the order, Pak Song-chol (Deputy President), Kim Yong-nam (Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs), Choe Tae-pok (party secretary), Kim Yong-sun (party secretary), Choe Yong-nim (Deputy Premier), Hong Song-nam, Kang Hui-won, Kim Tal-hyon (all Deputy Premier), Kim Chung-nim (party secretary, Yun Ki-pok, So Kwan-hui, Hwang Chang-hwa, Pak Nam-ki (all party secretaries), Yong Hyong-sop (Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly), and Chon Mun-sop (Chairman of National Inspection Committee).

There appears to be little change in the fundamental composition of the political power structure, even though minor cosmetic changes were observed, and most of them are younger generation of the revolution who are close to Kim Chong-il and foreign educated pragmatists or technocrats who have strong minds of their own.

According to our analysis, it appears that there would be fundamentally few effectuating and epochal changes on the current North Korean political power structure up until the 7th Party Congress even though there might be some cosmetic ones such as the case of Yon Hyong-muk for an immediate problem at hand, in view of the fact that the change surrounding Yon Hyong-muk in December of last year, changing his status from a member of Political Bureau to a candidate member and transferring him from premiership to the (Responsible Secretary of the party and the Chairman of People's Committee for Chakang Province), was due to the determinant fact that he was a Kim Il-song's man.

NUB Allows Church Council To Contact North

SK1301060694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0531 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—The National Unification Board (NUB) said Thursday it has given the Korean National Council of Churches (KNCC) permission to contact North Korean citizens but has made no decision on allowing KNCC to invite North Korean Christian leaders to visit South Korea.

"Our approval is limited to an exchange of letters or a meeting in a third country to find out if North Korean leaders are willing to visit Seoul, and does not extend to their actual visit," an NUB official said.

If Pyongyang shows it is sincere about settling the nuclear problem, Seoul is said to be willing to seriously consider allowing North Korean Church leaders to visit the South.

KNCC applied for a permit to contact North Koreans to invite church leaders from the communist country to attend its general assembly on Feb. 21 and various religious events.

Chinese Tourists Reportedly Escape From Hotel

SK1301121794 Seoul YONHAP in English 1155 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—Another group of 19 Chinese tourists, presumably all ethnic Koreans, fled their hotel in Seoul on Jan. 7 apparently to find jobs in the country, it was learned on Thursday.

This was seventh of such escapes involving 187 tourists from China since last September.

In the first and largest group escape, 115 Chinese participating in a group tour organized by the Aju Travel Co. fled their hotel in group on Sept. 6 last year.

Of the 187 who had fled, only 29 were caught in Suwon and forcibly flown back to China, with the whereabouts of the remainders having been unknown.

A police source said the latest 19 escapees were part of the 24 Chinese of a group tour organized by the Tongbo Travel Co. in the Jilin Province, part of the ethnic Koreans' autonomous area in northeastern China.

The remaining five of the group were deported on two occasions by Tuesday.

After group escapes by Korean-Chinese were reported often late last year, the government has been controlling group visits by ethnic Koreans from China.

In the latest case, the 24 visitors produced passports that described them as ethnic Chinese and spoke Chinese only.

Immigration officials suspect they were in effect ethnic Koreans who somehow forged their papers to make themselves appear to be ethnic Chinese so as to get entry into Korea.

Taejon, PRC City To Establish 'Sisterhood Relationship'

SK1301005394 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Jan 94 p 3

[Text] The city of Taejon will establish a sisterhood relationship with Nanjing in southern China, a spokesman for the Taejon City Government said yesterday.

A five-member delegation, headed by Wang Haoliang, secretary- general of the Nanjing Municipal People's Government, will arrive in the Korean central city Jan. 17 for a four-day visit at the invitation of Taejon Mayor Yom Hong-chol, he said.

During their stay in Taejon, the Chinese delegates will discuss preparations to set up a sisterhood relationship between the two cities and exchange bilateral friendship memorandum.

They will also discuss steps to increase personnel exchanges and economic cooperation. They will also visit the city's Taedok & Ginseng Corp. in Taejon, the spokesman said.

Nanjing, with a population of 2.47 million, is China's center stage for commercial, financial and trade activities in the southern region, he said.

The spokesman said Taejon, in accordance with the nation's recent emphasis on internationalization, is also seeking to set up sisterhood ties with other foreign cities, including Japan's Oda, Russia's Petersburg and Hungary's Budapest.

Russian Envoy Presents Credentials to Foreign Minister

SK1301013694 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Jan 94 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Envoy Kunadze"]

[Text] New Russian Ambassador Georgy Kunadze met with Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu for half an hour yesterday [12 January] to give him a copy of the letter of credentials he will formally present to President Kim Yong-sam later.

Kunadze is no stranger to Han as the two have met several times as researcher and professor at academic conferences while the former was serving at the IMEMO (Institute of World Economy and International Relations).

He expressed a hope to learn the Korean language during talks with Minister Han, according to a ministry official who was present at the meeting. Majoring in Japanese at Moscow University, Kunadze is a fluent Japanese speaker.

The Russian envoy was quoted as saying that his government plans to send more diplomats to Seoul, adding that the Russian embassy is a little small. Touching on his official residence south of Mt. Namsan, he also said that the house is good as living quarters but small for social functions, as if suggesting early settlement of the ownership of the former Russian legation site in downtown Seoul, according to the ministry official.

Former ambassador Alexander Panov has started working as vice foreign minister in charge of Asia-Pacific affairs covering Korea, China, Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Kunadze was quoted as saying.

While serving as vice minister, Kunadze was responsible for personnel and administration affairs in addition to Asia-Pacific and southwest Asian affairs.

He also met with Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong for about 35 minutes. Vice Minister Hong had served as ambassador to Moscow for one year before he became vice minister last March.

He is expected to present the letter of credentials to President Kim late this month or early next month along with three other new ambassadors, the ministry official said.

Army Engineer Replacements To Depart for Somalia 13 Jan

SK1301034494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0255 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—An Army engineer unit of 12 officers and 158 enlisted men will fly to Somalia on Thursday [13 January] night for a six-month shift of construction work as part of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in the east African country.

The unit will replace the unit dispatched there in July last year to build roads and irrigation channels North of Mogadishu.

The departure was delayed by 24 hours because of engine trouble on their aircraft.

NSP Changing Role in Era of 'Internationalization'

SK1301034294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0240 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—The Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), once a secretive intelligence organization, is trying to readjust its role and function to keep abreast of the country's efforts for openness and internationalization.

The immediate reason for the change is a recent revision of the law governing the Agency, curtailing its right to investigate cases involving anti-communist activities and establishing a watchdog committee in the National Assembly.

But the Agency appears to have realized that it has reached the point where it has to switch from the practice of supervising domestic politics to boosting the nation's competitive power by gathering information overseas.

In other words, the Agency has to internationalize itself if it is to serve the nation in the world arena.

Director Kim Tok set the goal for the Agency in his New Year's message: "Let's become an international intelligence organization in tune with the general trend for internationalization."

Accordingly, the Agency is now in the middle of the processes to strengthen the functions of collecting information, especially on business in foreign countries, after abolishing the department that was in charge of political affairs.

Kim Tok specifically prohibited NSP agents from meddling in domestic politics.

The Agency is also training its officials to specialize in various fields while stepping up foreign language education for its agents. It has already began sending NSP

officials abroad for one- year study of language and political and social backgrounds of a country they are to be assigned to later.

The NSP is also encouraging officials to develop associations with Korean businessmen and intelligence agents of their assigned countries, sources say.

Moreover, the Agency made the use of computers a requirement for all agents and the ability to use a computer is a must for promotion.

In addition, the NSP is working out measures to handle the "enormous amount" of information being collected by vast networks of Korean big businesses operating overseas and to prevent foreigners from siphoning off Korea's own economic information for foreign interests.

The Agency is also faced with the necessity of strengthening its department in charge of affairs related to the National Assembly since it no longer is be able to take advantage of the confidentiality of Agency work under the revised law on the NSP.

What irks the Agency more than anything else in the passage of the revised law is the abolition of the Agency's right to investigate persons accused of not informing the authorities of communist activities despite their knowledge or those who praise the North Korean political system.

Initially, there was "some opposition" in the agency when those rights were abolished, but most NSP officials have now accepted the revision as part of "unavoidable" action on the part of the civilian government of President Kim Yong-sam, sources say.

Under the revised law, the Agency is barred from auditing the security matters of every government agency. It has also lost the right to "coordinate business" of other governmental agencies. As a result, it is faced with shifting some personnel in charge of those affairs elsewhere.

Defense Ministry Seeking 'Lost' Classified Document

SK1301072094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry has lost a classified document that it sent to Rep. Cho Sun-hwan of the United People's Party during the National Assembly's regular session last year, and is trying to find it.

Investigators from the Defense Security Command searched the homes of Rep. Cho's aides—Yi Un-chae, 38, and Chong Chu-hun, 31—for the "secret" paper Thursday but came up empty handed, a ministry spokesman said.

The document contains details of the operating budget for the ministry for 1994 and could benefit Korea's enemies, he said.

The ministry prepared the document in September and, through the National Assembly Secretariat, gave a copy to each member of the defense and the budget and accounts committees for their deliberations on the defense budget. The copy sent to Cho, a member of the budget and accounts committee, was not returned.

Pressed for its return, the secretariat told the ministry in a letter Jan. 3 that it had no way of finding the document because the aide who had kept it had been fired.

In January 1992, Hwang In-o, the leader of a North Korean spy ring, obtained a classified Defense Ministry document through Yi Kun-hui, a lawmaker's secretary, and handed a photocopy to North Korea through Japan.

Demand, Exports Brighten Machinery Sector Prospects

SK0801083094 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 Jan 94 p 8

[By staff reporter Kang Sok-chae]

[Text] Despite poor domestic sales, the nation's machinery industry saw its exports exceed the $20 billion mark last year.

Prospects for the machinery sector this year are brighter as a strong recovery in domestic demand and sustained exports are expected.

Domestic demand for machinery, excluding electronics and shipbuilding, edged down 0.7 percent to $84.4 billion in 1993 from a year ago, but overseas shipments surged 21.8 percent to $20.6 billion.

The rise in exports increased the ratio of overseas shipments to total demand for machinery to 25.7 percent, up from 22 percent in 1992.

The Korea Association of Machinery Industry (KOAMI) attributed the surge in exports to the nation's efforts to diversity the machinery market.

China and other developing countries in Southeast and Southwest Asia have emerged as the nation's new export markets for Korea's machinery items following the United States.

Korea's import sources have shifted from Japan to Germany, Italy and other European Community countries.

Machinery production in 1993 was estimated to have grown to $80.3 billion, representing a year-on-year rise of 4.1 percent, but machinery imports dropped 0.3 percent to $24.7 billion last year.

The decline, mainly due to sluggish facility investments by domestic businesses, is the first in 11 years. Korea recorded a 7.2 percent drop in machinery imports in 1992.

The KOAMI predicted that domestic sales of machinery would grow 11.7 percent to $94.3 billion in 1994 and exports would increase 19.9 percent to $24.7 billion.

"A good showing in domestic demand and exports would hike the ratio of overseas shipments to total demand of machinery to 27 percent," one KOAMI official said.

He, however, forecast that machinery imports would jump 11.3 percent to $27.5 billion this year. "The machinery trade deficit would decline from a shortfall of $4.1 billion in 1993 to a deficit of $2.8 billion this year."

Korea suffered a machinery trade deficit of $7.8 billion in 1992 and a shortfall of $9.5 billion in 1991.

Despite a big improvement in the machinery trade balance, the nation's trade shortfall with Japan widened to $8.1 billion last year, up from a deficit of $7.7 billion in 1992. The comparable deficit figures with Japan were $8.6 billion in 1991, $6.7 billion in 1990 and $6.3 billion in 1989, according to data released by the KOAMI.

Machinery exports to Japan increased $100 million to $1.4 billion, but machinery imports jumped 5.4 percent to $9.5 billion.

The share of Japanese-made items in machinery imports increased to 38.5 percent in 1993, up from 36.6 percent in 1992, showing Korea's heavy dependency on Japan in machinery imports.

Machinery production would increase 13.9 percent to $91.5 billion in 1994, the official forecast.

Of the machinery sector, the KOAMI official predicted, general machinery would register an export growth of 16.7 percent to $8.4 billion in 1994, up from $7.2 billion in 1993.

Imports of general machinery would jump 11.2 percent to $14.9 billion this year, compared with $13.4 billion in 1993.

General machinery accounted for about 17 percent of total machinery exports and about 40 percent of total machinery imports in 1992.

"Sluggish domestic facility investments last year kept the growth rate in production of general machinery down to a rise of 2.1 percent to $20.4 billion from a year ago, but it is expected to rise 13.2 percent to $23.1 billion this year," the official said.

General machinery saw its facility investments decline 0.4 percent to 548.4 billion won last year because of slow economic recovery at home.

Facility investments for the machinery industry overall stood at 3.88 trillion won in 1993, up 19.4 percent from the previous year. Transportation equipment saw facility investment jump 28.4 percent to 2.45 trillion won last year.

The official also predicted that domestic demand for general machinery would surge 11.3 percent to $29.6 billion in 1994. The comparable figure for 1993 was $26.6 billion, which was down 5.9 percent from the previous year.

Forecasts for the Machinery Sector

(Units: in $Billion, Percent)

	All Machinery, Except Electronics & Shipbuilding			General Machinery		
	1993	1994	Growth	1993	1994	Growth
Production	$ 80.3bil.	91.5	13.9%	$20.4bil.	23.1	13.2%
Imports	24.7	27.5	11.3	13.4	14.9	11.2
Total	105.0	119.0	13.3	33.8	38.0	12.4
Domestic demand	84.4	94.3	11.7	26.6	29.6	11.3
Exports	20.6	24.7	19.9	7.2	8.4	16.7
Export ratio	25.7%	27.0%		35.3%	36.4%	
Self-sufficiency	70.7	70.8		49.6	49.7	

Sources: The Korea Association of Machinery Industry; 1993 figures are estimates

Burma

Reportage on SLORC-Ethnic Groups' Talks

Talks to Start 'Soon'

OW1301115594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Yangon [Rangoon], Jan. 13 KYODO—The ruling junta in Myanmar [Burma] and the Karen National Union (KNU), a major ethnic rebel group, are expected to hold peace talks soon, official sources said Thursday [13 January].

Representatives from the military government—the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC)—and the KNU have been in contact to try to arrange the talks, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Bo Mya on Talks With SLORC

BK1301015194 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Jan 94 p A 4

[Report by Somchit Rungchamratrasmee from Maneplaw]

[Excerpts] Anti-Rangoon Karen leader Gen Bo Mya announced yesterday that his group will again push for talks with the Burmese junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc), to end the country's political turmoil.

Speaking to a mass gathering on the Karen New Year Day, Bo Mya said his group would not abandon other prodemocracy Burmese allies but that his attempts to bring the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) to the negotiating table have always been rejected by Slorc. [passage omitted]

The Karen general said he would consult the DAB before meeting Slorc representatives and he hoped a DAB meeting tomorrow would come up with a resolution on the issue.

He blamed the failure of previous peace negotiations between the Karen and Rangoon—in 1949, 1962 and 1963—on successive Burmese governments and said "the Karen do not want to see disunity among all ethnic minorities. Instead they want to help to create democracy, human rights and freedom in the country."

Bo Mya later told reporters that the Karen National Union decided to enter talks with Slorc at the junta's invitation. The meeting, he said, has to take place in a country that recognises the negotiations and not inside Burma. He declined to disclose conditions of talks but said the forum would concentrate on political aspects.

Informed sources in the All Burma's Students Democratic Front said the Burmese military attache to Thailand, Col Thein Swe, told Gen Bo Mya in a brief meeting arranged by Thai mediators and officers early this month in Mae Hong Son that Slorc was willing to meet the Karen but not the DAB. [passage omitted]

Kachin Coordination Meeting

BK1201160394 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] The coordination meeting between the visiting working group from the Development of Border Areas and National Races [DBANR] and the Kachin Independence Organization [KIO] for regional development in Kachin State Special Region No. 2 was held at 0800 on 12 January at the Meeting Hall in the office of the chairman of the Kachin State Law and Order Restoration Council [LORC] in Myitkyina.

In his address, Major General Saw Lwin, chairman of Kachin State LORC and commander of northern military command, explained that the meeting was held so that personnel of the local KIO and the DBANR groups could meet and hold talks in order to increase the momentum of development in the region. He said economic, social, and other development activities in the Kachin State could not be carried out as in other states due to climatic and transportation difficulties. The commander reiterated that development activities have been carried out nationwide since 1988, when the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] took over the responsibilities of the nation. They are being implemented with cooperation and coordination from regional organizations at various levels.

Saw Lwin added that, in implementing regional development activities for the development of border areas and national races, and in accordance with SLORC guidelines, development programs will be conducted in three stages. The first stage involves activities directed from the central level; the second stage involves Kachin State level activities; and the third stage concerns district level works. Maj. Gen. Saw Lwin then asked to be excused if any weaknesses or imperfections occurred in implementing the development works and noted that every effort will be made to the best of the ability of those involved to ensure the projects are a success.

He requested that local KIO personnel regroup villagers who have vacated their villages and places of abode for various reasons due to insurgency and told them about the need to nurture the education, health, and economic development of villagers. Continuing, the commander noted that villages must be systematically reorganized according to their prevailing needs, and the chosen localities should have suitable regional and climatic conditions. Maj. Gen. Saw Lwin added that long-term and long-term plants and fruit trees should be planted for the benefit of future generations, with preference given to commercial and important plants. He then explained that the main transportation routes for commercialization are being built by the Kachin State LORC with cooperation from higher departments. He noted the need for cooperation by the KIO in building these roads, and explained the frankness and goodwill in implementing development activities for the benefit of future generations; that they can be proud of. Finally, Maj. Gen. Saw Lwin urged cooperation and coordination in fulfilling the development tasks, keeping in mind the love of country and patriotism.

The commander then introduced KIO leader U Lamung Tugyaing and his party to personnel from the DBANR working group and Kachin State departmental officials. The commander then presented the KIO leaders with gifts—400 pieces of clothing—for the local people in the Kachin Independence Army [KIA] First Brigade region.

DAB Leader on Thai 'Pressure'

BK1101110094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 11 Jan 94

[By Patrick Lescot]

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Jan 11 (AFP)—The future of a unified opposition in Burma and the opening of talks with its ruling military junta are the key points of discussion at a meeting of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), officials said here Tuesday.

The meeting, which opened Monday in Mannerplaw, the DAB's headquarters at the border between Burma and Thailand, comes as joint pressure from China and Thailand has already resulted in part of the opposition negotiating a separate ceasefire with the junta in Rangoon.

"We are scared of a border closure by Thailand, which would mean no more medical supplies for us," Em Marta told AFP.

Marta is in charge of the foreign affairs department of the National Karen Union (KNU), the oldest and most powerful insurgent group fighting the Rangoon junta and whose positions lie right on the border with Thailand.

According to Marta, the probability of the border's closing is something "we very much worry about and is the main reason" that the KNU has asked the DAB for a mandate to negotiate with the junta on behalf of all the opposition's various factions. [passage omitted]

Marta said the "the SLORC doesn't matter so much, but with Thailand, it is another story. We feel the pressure is coming [words indistinct]. He was referring to recent measures by the Thai Government to limit and control the Burmese opposition operating in Thailand.

The Burmese armed forces in December attacked positions held by Karens, killing five and injuring three, and suffering 20 dead and 30 injured in their own ranks, according to a Karen spokesman. [passage omitted]

A founding principle of the movement was the refusal to negotiate as separate factions with the junta.

"We need a mandate, or at least the support of the DAB, to negotiate," Marta said, adding that the first priority would be to obtain a ceasefire.

"We feel that Burma needs peace," Marta said. "At this point, there are no more preconditions."

The DAB had sought the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and opposition leader, who has been under house arrest since 1989, but this may no longer be a term, he said.

He cautioned, however, "if there is no political concession (by the SLORC), such a ceasefire would only be temporary." [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Tie Banh Meets Malaysian Envoy, U.S. Congress Group

BK1201152994 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Tie Banh, co-minister of national defense of the Kingdom of Cambodia, separately met with the Malaysian ambassador to Cambodia and a U.S. congressional delegation at the Army Foreign Relations Department on 10 January.

After discussing with Malaysian Ambassador H.E. Deva Mohamed Ridzam cooperation in the aviation sector, H.E. Gen. Tie Banh briefed his guest on some events concerning the security problem in the Kingdom of Cambodia. He said that tranquility is prevailing across the country, except in some remote areas along the northern border where the Khmer Rouge continue to conduct their military activities and cause insecurity among the people.

H.E. Deva Mohamed Ridzam said from 1957 until it recovered full independence and peace, Malaysia, like the Kingdom of Cambodia, encountered the same security problem. The Malaysian Government, however, adopted stringent measures against border bandits until the country achieved genuine peace.

H.E. Gen. Tie Banh underlined that the insecurity problem in the Kingdom of Cambodia is insignificant and that many countries in Asia have also encountered this kind of problem. He said he hoped that this problem would be settled in the near future.

Later, H.E. Gen. Tie Banh received Mr. Staffdel Wilson, vice chairman of the U.S. Congressional Foreign Relations Committee. [name and title as heard]

H.E. Charles Twining, U.S. ambassador to Cambodia, was also present at the audience.

H.E. Gen. Tie Banh answered many questions posed by Mr. Wilson, who wanted to become acquainted with the situation in Cambodia. He particularly wanted to know about the outcome of the process of merging the armed forces and about the Khmer Rouge problem.

H.E. Gen. Tie Banh underlined that the Khmer Royal Armed Forces, which is the merger of the troops of the three former Cambodian parties, are continuing to carry out their tasks. This constitutes a result that we have received with pride and national reconciliation spirit. Soon, the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] will arrange for some uniforms and settle the remaining problems once and for all.

With regard to the Khmer Rouge issue, H.E. Gen. Tie Banh pointed out that the RGC will allow them to join the

government if they correctly implement the three points requested by the government.

Mr. Wilson thanked H.E. Gen. Tie Banh for his briefing and expressed his pleasure with the political stability and security in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

As for Ambassador Twining, he said that with the consent of the U.S. Congress, the United States will give some materials to the RGC; the latter will then give them to the groups of Khmer Rouge which have returned to the national community and have respected the Kingdom of Cambodia's Constitution. The United States will also help restore some damaged roads. Mr. Twining promised that he would continue to envision and provide aid needed by the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Thailand's Chuan Likphai, Group Continue Visit

Talks With Ranariddh, Hun Sen Noted

BK1301111894 Phnom Penh AKP in English 1010 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP January 13—Co-prime Ministers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen held talks here Wednesday [12 January] with Thai Premier Chuan Likphai who is on a three-day official visit to Cambodia.

During talks, the two sides agreed to cooperate in ensuring and restoring stability along Cambodian-Thai border.

On the disputes of the off-shore concerning oil exploration, the two sides agreed to leave the problems to be solved by the two concerned ministries of the two countries.

Chuan Likphai, the first Thai premier visiting Cambodia in decades, suggested the Royal Government of Cambodia examine and solve problems of dispute between Thai businessmen and the local people in Battambang Province about chit fund.

He also reiterated Thai Government's acceptance to give scholarship to 50 Cambodian students for continuing their study in the Kingkom of Thailand.

Also in the talks, the Cambodian side spoke of the problems of investment of the Thai businessmen in Cambodia, adding that "the Royal Government of Cambodia assured all foreign businessmen and investors, especially the Thais who do the business and investment in Cambodia."

The Royal Government of Cambodia has never cancelled any contract, said the Cambodian side.

Chuan who arrived here Wednesday is scheudled to participate in the opening ceremonies Thursday for two Thai-built bridges which link Aranyaprathet with Cambodia's Highway 5, through Poipet District and on to Sisophon.

Investment Backing, Pledge on KR

BK1301020794 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Jan 94 p A 1

[Text] Cambodia has reassured Prime Minister Chuan Likphai it does not believe Bangkok is supporting the Khmer Rouge and that it will honour all previous business agreements that are judged "fair".

The reassurance from Cambodia's first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh came after Chuan, making his first official visit to Phnom Penh, reaffirmed that Thailand does not help any group not a part of the legitimate government of Cambodia. At the same time, Chuan and his official delegation sought assurances that Phnom Penh would protect legitimate Thai investment in Cambodia while weeding out business people seen to be exploiting the country.

Prince Ranariddh spoke to reporters after meeting with Chuan.

"The meeting has made progress and smoothened our relationship," Prince Ranariddh said. Also present at the meeting was Cambodia's second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Chuan told the Cambodian premiers that as Bangkok does not want anyone to interfere in its internal affairs, it has never, and will never, intervene in Cambodia's domestic issues, especially as far as the Khmer Rouge is concerned.

Chuan's closed-door meeting with Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen was also attended by Thai Defence Minister Gen Wichit Sukmak, his Cambodian counterparts Gen Tie Banh and Gen Tea Chamrat, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and Cambodian Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut.

Prince Sirivut had recently demanded that Bangkok state specifically which group, the Cambodian govemment or the Khmer Rouge, it supported.

Thai government spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa said the Cambodian officials told Chuan they were grateful to Thailand for playing a major role in helping to restore peace and for assisting in full reconstruction and reconciliatiun.

Both sides agreed to more direct contact in the future to avoid misunderstandings from escalating into major problems.

An informed source at the meeting said Prince Sirivut blamed the media for exaggerating his demand for clarification from Chuan.

Meanwhile, Chuan asked Phnom Penh to take tough action against Thais involved in illegal activities in Cambodia, but demanded fair treatment and protection for legitimate businesses.

"Cambodia reaffirmed it had no intention of revising agreements that Thais have signed with previous Cambodian governments for any benefit.

"It reiterated it would honour the agreements," he said.

Chuan raised the issue at the meeting with Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen. Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan, Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin and Wichit Suphinit, governor of Bank of Thailand, were at the meeting.

Chuan said there were some companies operating in Cambodia without an agreement. But Phnom Penh had promised to discuss some arrangements with the companies based on mutual interest.

Cambodia's Economic and Finance Minister Sam Rangsi said his government would honour "good" agreements.

Chuan said this confirmation would create more confidence among Thai investors in Cambodia.

Because Cambodia was still in the transition stage of its reconstruction and rehabilitation, it had yet to set up an organization to handle economic and trade issues.

Cambodia agreed in principle to a Thai proposal to upgrade a temporary border checkpoint in the Sa Kaeo-Poipet area to permanent checkpoint.

However Cambodian officials asked for more time to study the details of the proposal.

National Security Council Gen Charan Kullawanit said Cambodia needed more time because it did not have enough qualified customs and immigration personnel to man the checkpoint.

Officials are still being trained, he added.

Aphisit said the two governments agreed that permanent checkpoint would boost trade and help each country to collect trade taxes.

The meeting agreed to conduct more studies into the Thai proposal to have 11 body to oversee the boundary, and another body to coordinate border issues.

Generals: No Thai-Khmer Rouge Link

BK1201150594 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Senior Cambodian military officers have denied that they made accusations about Thailand's support of the Khmer Rouge. They believed the accusations were made by groups wanting to create disputes between Thailand and Cambodia.

Cambodian Defense Minister General Tie Chamrat said the following at an interview during his visit to a Thai Supreme Command unit in Chachoengsao. He said the reports about Thai support for the Khmer Rouge's attack against Cambodian government soldiers were manufactured by the media, which used his name to give credence to the reports. The reports were absolutely untrue.

[Begin Tie recording in Cambodian] The reporters asked good questions. They were young and beautiful and asked good questions. I, the defense minister, have never talked about the Khmer Rouge issue. Reports were written by reporters. For myself, I have never written such reports. [end recording]

Meanwhile, General Yim Savi, the director of the Cambodian Defense Ministry's Logistics Department, confirmed during a function in Sa Kaeo Province to receive delivery of 9,999 Army uniforms from the Thai Government that the Cambodian Government has never accused Thailand of supporting the Khmer Rouge. He said the reports were written by people who wished to see disputes between the two neighboring countries.

Further on Khmer Rouge Raids, RCG Reaction

BK1201150294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1206 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Poipet, Cambodia, Jan 12 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge blew up a new bridge along Cambodia's national Route 5 as guerrillas burned tracts of ricefield, government and military officials said Wednesday.

The guerrillas attacked government troops guarding the bridge along Route 5 at Phum O Snguot, south of Sisophon, in Banteay Meanchey province, a military official in the capital Phnom Penh said.

A government officer told reporters on the Thai-Cambodian border that one government soldier was killed and three injured in the 30-minute firefight—one guerrilla was also killed.

The guerrillas proceeded to use landmines to destroy a 5-meter (16.5 foot) stretch of the bridge, the military official said.

The bridge was renovated by Thai military engineers and is just some 60 kilometers (37 miles) south of another bridge at the Thai- Cambodian border, which Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai will official open Thursday, the government officer said. [passage omitted]

The ceremony would not be affected by Wednesday attck as Chuan, along with co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, were scheduled to arrive here by helicopter.

Tanks and armoured personnel carriers were moved into Poipet as protection for the visit, a government officer at the border said.

As preparations were being made to boost protection for the visiting dignitaries, fresh fighting erupted in Phum Takong Krao about 18 kilometers to the south, the latest in a series of clashes between the government troops and the Khmer Rouge in the area.

In northern Preah Vihrear province, Khmer Rouge guerrillas burnt more than one thousand acres (400 hectares) of ricefields, Ministry of Information spokesman Sieng La Presse said.

"This is the harvest season and they try to sabotage the economic system of the royal government by burning rice, threatening the lives of peasants and cutting the roads so they cannot move their produce to the market," he said.

Sieng La Presse said guerrillas were operating a "hit and run" strategy, attacking a village at night and burning the houses, killing livestock and destroying paddies. [passage omitted]

Earlier, Prince Ranariddh said he had "a very good meeting" with the Thai premier, commenting: "There's

progress when the Thai side says they never provide any support for the Khmer Rouge." [passage omitted]

Minister Plans Devaluation; Says Reserves Dwindling

BK1301135594 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] A seminar on investment and the Cambodian economy was held at the Cambodiana Hotel this morning. At the seminar, Sam Rangsi, Cambodian economy and finance minister, said the Cambodian national budget faces constraints and financial reserves are dwindling. The Cambodian Government has attempted to undertake economic restructuring in order to become self-reliant. Two measures have been planned to achieve this: Economic policy must be continuous, laws must be transparent, and foreign investors must be screened; and also the Cambodian Government will soon devalue the riel to make the currency stronger. According to the Cambodian finance minister, six months have passed since the formation of the new Cambodian Government, but the economy has not yet reached a stage that will attract investors. The government does not have enough money to pay the salaries of officials. This could lead to demonstrations. For this reason, the Cambodian Government has accelerated the targeted collection of taxes to stabilize the country's economic position.

Laos

KPL Cites USIS on POW/MIA Issue

BK1301084194 Vientiane KPL in English 0623 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Vientiane, January 13 (KPL)—Counselor Tim Wirth talked about prisoners of war [POW] and U.S. soldiers missing in action [MIA] in a news briefing held in Washington, U.S.A., on January 11, according to a press release of the United States Information Service (USIS) issued here on January 12.

When asked if there were any U.S. POWs left behind in Laos and if Laos is doing enough on the POW//MIA issue, he said that this issue had received extensive review in both the legislative and executive branches. Following its year-long investigation into the POW/MIA issue, the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA affairs noted in its final report: "American officials did not have certain knowledge that any specific prisoner or prisoners were being left behind." The counselor added that cooperation on the POW/MIA issue is a priority in the U.S. relations with Laos. The U.S. will continue to press for additional cooperation and progress on this issue.

505 Americans remain unaccounted for in Laos. Last year, the U.S. and Laos conducted six joint field activities. However, more than 80 percent of the persons unaccounted for in Laos were actually lost in areas under the control of the North Vietnamese. This demonstrates the importance of the first-ever trilateral operation with Vietnam, which was completed on December 20, said the release.

The release also added that the first field activity for 1994 was scheduled to begin later this month.

Foreign Minister Receives New U.S. Envoy

BK1301051994 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Yesterday in Vientiane, Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat of the Lao People's Democratic Republic received Victor L. Tomseth, new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States to Laos.

The new U.S. envoy paid a visit to the Lao foreign minister after he presented a letter of credentials to Laos' President Nouhak Phoumsavan on 8 January.

The conversation between the guest and the host focused on the improvement of efficiency in promoting and expanding the relations of friendship, cooperation, and assistance between the two countries.

Moreover, Somsavat Lengsavat wished the Amrican ambassador successes in performing diplomatic duties in Laos.

President Thanks SRV Delegation, Views Ties

BK1301052794 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received Vu Oanh, Politburo member, who is in charge of guiding mass organizations, of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, and the CPV delegation at the Presidential Palace in Vientiane yesterday afternoon.

The Vu Oanh-led high-level CPV delegation is here to attend the funeral of Phoumi Vongvichit, adviser to the LPRP Central Committee, former Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee, former acting president of the LPDR, former chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC], and former deputy prime minister and minister of education, sports, and religion, who passed away at 0822 on 7 January.

Nouhak Phoumsavan expressed appreciations to the high-level CPV delegation led by Vu Oanh for making a trip to Laos to attend the funeral of Phoumi Vongvichit. This, the Lao president remarked, would contribute to the endlessly furthur improving and expanding of the long-standing special relations of friendship and all-around cooperation between the two parties, states, and peoples of Laos and Vietnam.

On the same occasion, Vu Oanh extended regards and deep regrets from the Vietnamese party, state, and people to Lao counterparts for the loss of Phoumi Vongvichit, a

much-beloved leader of the party, state, and people of Laos and a good friend of Vietnamese people.

In addition, the Lao president and the guests also exchanged views on the issues of relations and cooperation between the parties, states, and peoples of Laos and Vietnam for the immediate future and in the long run to enhance the further strengthening of the time-honored fine traditions to flourish ever more.

Philippines

Ramos Meets Iranian Minister, Views Ties

LD1301144794 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 13, IRNA—Iran's Agriculture minister 'Isa Kalantari, currently in Manila, met with President Fidel Ramos Thursday and called for direct trade between Iran and the Philippines without intervention of a third party.

Kalantari also underlined Iran's strategic status in the Persian Gulf particularly after the establishment of the newly independent Central Asian republics.

Ramos welcomed the idea and expressed desire for further collaboration between Iran and the Philippines in all areas. He said Tehran and Manila could meet each other's needs through their recources and facilities.

Kalantari also conveyed the greetings of President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani to Ramos and briefed him on the agricultural developments in Iran.

Sison Threatens Talks Pull-Out Over Killing

BK1301080894 Quezon City MALAYA in English 8 Jan 94 p 3

[By Chit Estrella]

[Text] Exiled communist leader Jose Maria Sison yesterday said the peace efforts between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) would be endangered if the Ramos government is found to be behind the murder of Victor Martinez, an alleged former commander of the New People's Army.

In a statement where he expressed his condolences to the family of Martinez, Sison also rejected the suggestion by a rebel faction opposed to him that the current leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) could be behind the killing. He said the murder was most likely carried out by the government to sow "bloody intrigue" between the two conflicting sides within the communist movement. "There are prevalent indications that this killing is the deed of certain men who enjoy the authority and protection of the Ramos regime and who seek to sow intrigue against the national democratic movement," Sison said.

He warned that unless the government desists from pitting one group within the rebel movement against the other, there would be "absolutely no basis for any kind of talks between the Manila government and the NDF." Although Sison denies being the CPP chairman, he admits to being a consultant to the NDF in its current peace efforts with the Ramos administration.

In saying that the CPP had no hand in the murder of Martinez, Sison said the former rebel commander "was known to have served well the revolutionary movement and to have distanced himself from the group of Arturo Tabara." Tabara was one of four former CPP officers now facing possible trial before a "people's court" for various charges. The other three are Romulo Kintanar, Filemon Lagman and Ricardo Reyes. They have been accused of "serious crimes" such as gangsterism, gross malversation of party funds and instigation of a bloody witch hunt within the movement that led to the death of hundreds of suspected government agents.

Sison said Martinez was never in the list of those accused by the CPP of serious crimes. Apart from having distanced himself from Tabara, Sison said Martinez was subsequently suspected by the former of turning against his group.

"It is highly probable that a military and police group in combination with the Tabara group killed Martinez as the sacrificial lamb in the Ramos regime's scheme," he said. Sison reiterated that Tabara is known to have been a government agent since 1988.

Explaining why the CPP could not have been behind the killing, Sison said, even those facing charges "are not subject to summary execution." They are guaranteed the right to due process, the very same principle which they trampled upon in committing their crimes in torturing and killing suspects in the course of the anti-informer campaigns," he said.

Martinez was killed in front of his wife and three children last 2 January by men introducing themselves as government agents.

CPP Factions Trade Charges

BK1301101294 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 9 Jan 94 p 7

[Text] A colleague of the slain former rebel leader Vicente Martinez yesterday accused exiled communist Jose Maria Sison and the military of "muddling" the circumstances surrounding the killing.

A statement from the Alex Boncayao Brigade sent to the INQUIRER office yesterday, meanwhile, pointed to the military as the "direct perpetrator" of the killing, but also held the Sison led faction of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) responsible for "opening the door for (the military's) bloody intrigue."

Ricardo Reyes, former secretary general of the CPP, added that Sison and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lisandro Abadia are using the victim for "self serving purposes."

Sison's group was earlier implicated by Martinez's comrades in the underground movement in Visayas in the killing, but Sison reversed the accusations, saying that

Martinez must have been killed by the communist opposition in connivance with the military and the police.

"Martinez was known to have distanced himself from the (opposition group)," Sison said, adding that "he (Martinez) was subsequently suspected by the (opposition) of turning against it."

But Reyes, who has now joined the open legal struggle refuted Sison's statements.

"Vic Martinez has unequivocally and steadfastly stood for the opposition," he said. "I know it because we are co-workers in the (Philippine Ecumenical Action for Community Empowerment Foundation)," he added.

"Sobrang kawalanghiyaan na ito [This is notoriously shameless]," Reyes said, describing alleged "twisting of facts."

In criticizing the military, Reyes said that Abadia has exonerated the military "with indecent haste... relying on something as dubious as intelligence reports." Because of this, he said the military's impartiality has therefore been compromised in the investigation.

Sergio Romero, ABB [Alex Boncayao Brigade] commanding officer, said that the "bloody intrigues" were sparked by Sison's group when it issued last month "charge sheets" against four ranking leaders in the CPP opposition who are to be tried in "people's courts."

These are Reyes, former NPA [New People's Army] chief Romulo Kintanar, Metro Manila CPP head Felimon Lagman and CPP Visayas chair Arturo Tabara.

The ABB called on Sison's group to "repair the damage they have done." Likewise, he demanded the withdrawal of the charges against the opposition leaders and to stop Sison's personal attacks against these people.

Meanwhile, Luis Jalandoni, vice chairman of the National Democratic Front (NDF), yesterday condemned the killing of Martinez and warned that such "bloody intrigues" would frustrate the peace talks.

"Any attempt of the Ramos regime to carry out bloody intrigue against the revolutionary movement will render impossible further talks between the NDF and the (government)," Jalandoni, who represents the NDF in the peace talks, said in a statement from Utrecht, The Netherlands.

MILF Ready To Sign Separate Cease-Fires Accord

BK1301071794 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] The Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] is ready to sign an agreement with the Philippine Government for the implementation of separate cease fires. Government panel member Eduardo Ermita made this announcement after receiving hints from the MILF headed by Hashem Salamat. Earlier, government panel Chairman Manuel Yan disclosed that the government will hold separate peace talks with the MILF after the negotiation with the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] headed by Nur Misuari.

[Begin recording, in English, in progress] [Ermita] ... and MNLF.

[Unidentified reporter] But what about the cease-fire processes?

[Ermita] When we came from Jakarta, we got word that they [MILF] are considering signing a separate cease-fire agreement, but we have never been able to confirm that.

[Reporter] Will the cease-fire agreement depend on what took place during the talks with MNLF?

[Ermita] No, it is independent of the MNLF. We are still awaiting, lahat eh.... [changes thought], we have not gotten any final word from the MILF whether indeed they will sign a separate cease-fire agreement with the Philippine Government. [end recording]

Negotiator Discusses MNLF Truce Provisions

BK1301054694 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 9 Jan 94 pp 1, 8

[By Vic P. Arevalo]

[Excerpt] Zamboanga City—A cease fire agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) will be signed in Cotabato City today or tomorrow, depending on the availability of Nur Misuari, MNLF chairman who is reportedly still in Jolo, Sulu.

The joint cease fire committee, led by Marine Brig. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz and Maj. Gen. Abdul Sarim of the MNLF, drew up the agreement after three days of meeting here last 5 to 7 January.

Both panels agreed that a joint cease fire monitoring office will be set up here to monitor, review, and evaluate violations of the cease fire pact.

Sub-monitoring offices will be set up in the 13 provinces of Mindanao where the cease fire is in effect.

Ruiz said "the ground rules of the accord will be in effect. The MNLF will not be allowed to recruit fighters. It will also be banned from training fighters during the cease fire. MNLF rebels will be prohibited from carrying guns outside identified MNLF areas."

He added "there will be no acts of terrorism or violence while the cease fire is in effect."

"On the other hand, government forces will not be allowed to conduct military operations against MNLF rebels. There will no naval gunfire or shelling of pinpointed rebel areas. However, Philippine National Police (PNP) operations against criminals will continue," Ruiz said.

If criminals hide in MNLF areas, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will pursue them—with the MNLF's help, he added.

The cease fire agreement will be signed by the joint peace panel represented by Manuel Yan, former ambassador to Thailand and AFP chief of staff, representing the government and Misuari for the MNLF.

The AFP and the PNP will provide security for Misuari when he and his group will travel to Cotabato and other provinces of Mindanao. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Senators Inouye, Stevens Conclude Visit

BK1301161094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] On 10 and 11 January U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Ted Stevens, chairman and vice chairman respectively of the Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, paid a visit to Vietnam with four aides.

The delegation was received by Dang Quan Thuy, National Assembly vice chairman and chairman of the National Assembly Defense Committee. The delegation also met Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai, Deputy Trade Minister Ta Ca, and Nguyen Nhac, deputy minister chairman of the Cooperation and Investment State Commission. During the meetings, Senators Inouye and Stevens affirmed that it was time to close the sorrowful page of the past in U.S.-Vietnamese relations in order to build a better future for the two peoples. They also said that the long-term relationship between the two countries should be based on mutual understanding, respect, and benefits.

The senators also wished that U.S. businessmen would soon have opportunity to do business in Vietnam. The delegation also expressed concern about the fate of American servicemen missing in the war, and thanked the Vietnamese Government and people for their positive cooperation in this issue, thus contributing to reducing the agony of the American families who have relatives missing in the war. The delegation promised to report this situation to the U.S. Senate.

The delegation left for home on the afternoon of 11 January.

Le Mai Comments on Human Rights Dialogue

BK1301144994 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 13—Dialogue between nations on common issues of the world has the effect of narrowing down disagreement while promoting mutual understanding, said Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai on Thursday.

This trend is growing in present-day international relations, he said in an interview granted to VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY.

Le Mai said each nation has the responsibility of guaranteeing human rights within its territorial boundaries. He also acknowledged that human rights were the concern of the world community as a whole.

He said Vietnam agreed to talk with other countries on human rights because it wanted those countries to understand that the people of Vietnam had given so much for man's sacred fundamental rights on this land, and were making tremendous efforts in all fields—political, economic, cultural and social—to ensure human rights in their country.

"We will talk with other countries", Le Mai said, "so that a correct understanding can be had on the fundamental principles of an international law on human rights, namely respect for national independence and national sovereignty, respect for the right of nations to self-determination, particularly the right for each to choose its own path of development, respect for national, community of individual rights, respect for political, civil, economic and social right of the citizen and respect for the right of nations for development which is now a topical problem of the world". [sentence as received]

Le Mai dismissed recent press reports about dialogue on "certain aspects of human rights in Vietnam". "Vietnam and other countries have agreed that their exchanges of views will be conducted on the basis of equality, mutual respect and non-interference", he stressed.

Le Mai said he believed the talks would be positive and constructive. "If our interlocutors can say concretely where and how our law does not conform strictly to international law we will [words indistinct] seriously and refer them to Vietnamese competent bodies for consideration".

"At the same time we will try to make other countries share our views that man's most fundamental rights are national self- determination and development, which must be strictly respected," Le Mai added.

He said he hoped the world community, through dialogue, would gradually establish mutual respect and [words indistinct] and equal, mutually beneficial cooperation on human rights.

"Human rights should not be used as a tool for one country to impose on, or interfere in, another country", Le Mai concluded.

Embassy in Cambodia Protests Kidnapping

BK1301150394 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 13—The Vietnamese Embassy in Cambodia on Jan. 11 strongly condemned the Khmer Rouge for kidnapping two Vietnamese residents when they were fishing in Kompong Chhnang Province of Cambodia on Dec. 29, 1993.

In a note lodged to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Royal Cambodian Government, the Vietnamese Embassy quoted a source from the Overseas Vietnamese Association in Kompong Chhnang as saying that on Dec. 29, 1993 Khmer Rouge troops

kidnapped Mrs Le Thi Hung, 45, and her brother Mr Le Van Sen, 33, while they were fishing on a river near the town of Kompong Chhnang.

The note strongly condemned that criminal act taken by the Khmer Rouge against the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, and requested the Cambodian Government to immediately take drastic measures in order to bring the criminals to trial and stop such actions of the Khmer Rouge to ensure the lives, property and normal life for all Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

Doan Khue Views Armored Force Readiness

BK1301093994 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] In Ho Chi Minh City recently, the Tank and Armored Force [TAF] Command held a seminar on its building and training tasks during the past period. General Doan Khue, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of National Defense attended the seminar.

The TAF commander delivered a report on the activities of the force during the past few years. He pointed to its great efforts in improving its organization and personnel to meet the requirements of localities, military regions, and key strategic areas.

Despite numerous difficulties in equipment, budget, and facilities, the TAF has closely coordinated with the army corps, military regions, and localities to build and strengthen its units, improve training, and maintain combat readiness. The force has also striven to recruit and train new cadres, specialized personnel, and workers. Various units of the force have consistently improved training and fulfilled all their assigned tasks. They have closely combined the task of building firm and comprehensively strong units with that of modernizing and standardizing the army.

The seminar provided ample time for delegates of the army corps, military regions, and military units to discuss and exchange experiences on training and maintaining the spirit of combat readiness, military and joint operations, and other tasks related to national defense.

Speaking at the seminar, the minister stressed: In building and training, the TAF should implement the motto: firmly maintain basic principles and effectively apply past combat experiences. Cadres of the force must carefully study the enemy's capabilities while formulating concrete plans and projects to enhance the quality of training at various units. They must also strive to fulfill their tasks in order to attain standardization, build comprehensively strong units, set up firm and strong defense zones, and step by step advance toward modernizing the army. These are essential tasks for making the TAF units strong and firm so that they can fulfill new tasks and meet the requirements under all circumstances for the cause of national defense and construction.

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